During the general discussion no member other than the Financial Secretary will be allowed more than 15 minutes, and in the voting of demands for grants the time limit for speeches for members will be 10 minutes. I hope honourable members will so adjust their speeches as to make it possible for a large number of their colleagues including the official members to participate in the debate.

The general discussion will now commence.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Sir, I wish to state that the usual time is 11 to 4-30 every day.

President: For the budget sitting it is 11 to 5.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Sir, as I rise...

President: Order, order. Elsewhere I found certain difficulty because honourable members did not intimate to the Chair as to who was willing to take part in the discussion. I would suggest that the honourable members who wish to take part in the discussion should send in their names, indicating at the same time whether they would like to speak in the forenoon or in the afternoon. Some honourable members might prefer to speak in the forenoon while some others might prefer to speak in the afternoon.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Sir, as I rise to make a few observations on the financial position in the country as revealed by the Budget presented to the Legislature, I am confronted with the overwhelming fact of the uncertainty raised by the intolerable world situation. Added to this, Sir, the statements about constitutional changes made by the British Government and the important political parties in British India have certain inevitable repercussions on the financial, political and fiscal position of Travancore. I do not propose, Sir, to enter into a discussion of the mutual relations and obligations of Travancore and British India or the Paramount Power in general. But I wish to state, and I may be excused for trenching upon that subject in so far as it affects the financial position of Travancore. The question of independence for India as its ultimate destiny or its immediate prospective achievement has been raised and various controversies have grown round it. The House is well aware of the statement that you have made, Sir regarding that subject and I may say that I am very much relieved of the responsibility of talking on that subject and indicating about it. Since the declaration made on behalf of the British Government by His Excellency the Viceroy who has more or less confirmed in every detail the pronouncement that you have made with regard to the mutual relation that subsists between Travancore and the Paramount Power.

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Mr. Kochikkal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Sir, I rise to a point of order. Is the Honourable Member in order when he refers to the pronouncement made by the Chair, because the Chair will be drawn into the controversy and that will detract from the dignity of the Chair.

President: If the Chair takes upon itself the responsibilityof speaking—without being completely silent and gloriously detached—on points relating to the Budget, the Chair cannot and ought not to be exempt from criticism on the substance of what the Chair has stated. There are certain limitations as to the manner in which utterances from the Chair have to be dealt with. Any ruling by the Chair *qua* President is unassailable according to parliamentary procedure and cannot be questioned. If the President, who also happens to be the head of the administration here, makes a statement, he cannot take refuge in the fact that he is also the President of this Council and claim exemption from criticism in regard to statements he has so made.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Sir, I may state in this connection that the ideas expressed by His Excellency the Viceroy are of vital importance to us as a State, as I shall presently try to show. His Excellency the Viceroy recognised the point of view that has been stressed by you in the course of the speech that you made at the Joint Session of the Houses of Legislature. His Excellency now states that the British Government cannot contemplate the transfer of their present responsibility for the peace and welfare of India to any system of Government whose authority is practically denied by large and powerful elements in India's national life nor could they be parties to the coercion of such elements into submission to such Government. His Excellency has also given the assurance that His Majesty's Government cannot divest themselves of their responsibility in fulfilling the obligation which Great Britain's long connection with India has imposed upon her. In order to devise the framework of a new constitution a body representative of the principal elements in India's national life would be set up with the least possible delay after the conclusion of the war.

Sir, these statements are re-assuring and relieve very much the anxiety that we may feel. Sir, the treaties entered into by Travancore as early as 1795 are treaties entered into with a view to certain mutual obligations. There have been some people who, without understanding the peculiar history of Travancore,.....

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Sir, I rise to a point of order. Is not the Honourable Member contravening the provisions of Section 17 of the Legislative Rules ?

President: The relations between this Government and the

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Paramount Power cannot form the subject of discussion and that is incontrovertible under our statutory provisions. But I take it that the idea of the Honourable Member is that there are certain obligations of a contractual character which will cease to be of avail if independence becomes a *fait accompli*. I do not want to trench upon what may be said by the honourable member. It is possible to argue that the treaty is partly a political treaty and partly a contractual arrangement. It is possible to argue that the treaty imposes paramountcy and subordination, that in addition it imposes the duty of paying Rs. 8 lakhs odd per year in recompense for stationing certain troops. It is possible to contend that if these troops cannot operate the tribute may not in equity be demanded.

Mr. Kottoor Kunjukrishna Pillai: I prefaced my remarks by saying that I am not at the question of discussing the merits of the treaties or the mutual relations arising out of those treaties, but only the questions arising out of.—

President: The honourable member will realise that the border line is very narrow and therefore in any remarks he may make he must guard against any suggestion criticising or canvassing the existing or likely future relations between the State and the Paramount Power.

Mr. Kottoor Kunjukrishna Pillai: Therefore what I wanted to canvass was that the treaty which has subsisted between the Travancore Government and the Paramount Power, as seen from the treaties of 1795 and 1805, is a treaty of mutual friendship, in the nature of a contract with obligations, by which the Government of Travancore gives as consideration Rs. 8 lakhs odd every year for the defence of Travancore from external aggression and internal disturbances. If that point is admitted, Sir, the question that you raised in your speech—the question of defending the whole of India and the question of maintaining the independence which may be obtained—necessarily does arise. For, only a power or an authority that has got the means of defending the whole of India, including Travancore, from external aggression.....

President: I do not wish to stop the honourable member. He is entitled to enforce his argument. But after the unequivocal pronouncement you have seen, is it necessary to go on with that matter?

Mr. Kottoor Kunjukrishna Pillai: I wanted only to refer to its reaction on the Budget. If there is no obligation for the defence of Travancore or if non-violent methods are adopted for the purpose of defending the whole of India including Travancore, this 8 lakhs may not be necessary and it will be available to us. That is the point that I wanted to stress. So the question of

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carrying out the obligations created by the treaty is a question that is closely connected with our financial position in the State. Therefore what I wanted to say was that the question of the defence and the method of defence of the whole of India, including Travancore, is a necessary preliminary that has to be settled before we enter into fresh contracts or fresh treaties with any other power that may be ruling the whole of India.

In view of the fact as you, Sir, have suggested, the statement of His Excellency the Viceroy and the statement made yesterday by the Secretary of State for India Mr. Amery, clearly show that there is no sign of the British Government giving up all their power. So that then these questions are purely of academic interest as things stand at present. But one factor I wish to point out and that very clearly too. That is, many of the British Indian statesmen and politicians, especially those in North India, do not recognise the difference that subsists between States in Kathiawar and small States in North India and between States like Travancore which have never been conquered.

Mr. Kocheekal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Sir, on a point of order. Is the member right in referring to other States?

Mr. Kottoor Kunjukrishna Pillai: Sir, I do not think there is any rule by which the word 'State' cannot be mentioned by any honourable member of this House. I am not criticising those States. I am stating facts. I do not understand why my honourable friend should put me such questions.

Therefore, the distinction has to be made clear and that question is very important. The State of Travancore stands on a different footing, because it was never conquered.

President: Some States come under that category, not all.

Mr Kottoor Kunjukrishna Pillai: The politicians in North India have confused the issue of the relative importance of States and the treaty rights entered into by them with the Paramount Power. There has been a complete misunderstanding and misreading of historical facts pertaining to Travancore by those politicians. Therefore much of their arguments with reference to Travancore and the sovereignty of Travancore is not a question which can be seriously raised as is done by them. This fact having been mentioned and after seeing that there is not much of a likelihood of any violent change in the constitution or the relationship of States with other powers, I think of speaking next a few words on the Budget proper.

I do not wish to repeat all the criticisms that have been made on the Budget, but I wish only to draw the attention of Government to certain salient points. Ever since I came to this House,

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some ten years ago, the first thing that I noted in the financial position of our State was, that our incomes were thought to be inelastic and our expenditure was growing. Till recently we were believing that our income is absolutely inelastic and we were thinking of reducing expenditure to the minimum. But I am happy to find that the elasticity of our income is not such a blind alley as it was thought to be and prospects of increasing the income have been found by adopting new methods and after a general examination of those new methods, it can very definitely be said that there are possibilities of increasing our income. But, Sir, at the same time a note of caution has to be struck and that is, those possibilities should be exploited to the full. The commercial departments must be very rigorously controlled and the actual amount that could be got from those departments should be realised and ought to be realised. For this, Government has a responsibility to tighten up their control, to reduce expenditure to the minimum of efficiency and to see that the undertakings of Government realise the profits. Sir, I am fully aware of the fact that it is not always possible to show huge profits as soon as an undertaking is started. I do not say anything by way of carping criticism or premature criticism regarding it. We must be satisfied and the public also, in seeing that the expenditure incurred on these items are reduced to the minimum of efficiency. Judged from this point, let us look into the commercial undertakings. I will take first the Transport. My complaint is, that attention has not been sufficiently directed to the various items of expenditure, to the extent to which it is required, and that is the reason why the anticipations are not fully realised. It has to be done. I know a Government running commercial business cannot run it like an ordinary private individual, with the very dismal expenditure figures that he has to show. There will be some exces expenditure. But even then, looking at the figures the overhead charges are too much. They can be limited and ought to be limited. I will point out one small instance. At a time when the Government was thinking of introducing our wood materials for every item of construction possible, and even such a bridge as the Thottapally bridge was being put up with our wood, I found that the Quilon Transport garage was built with iron girders and asbestos covering and the span of the garage is less than 30 feet.

Mr. Kocheekal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Is that not a protection from fire?

Mr. Kottoor Kunjukrishna Pillai: There are many other garages like that with wood protection and there is no such danger of combustion as my friend seems to think. As a matter of fact, there are only a few garages built with asbestos and iron

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girders and the cost of one of them is five times the cost of an ordinary shed. There is no necessity at all for that. The Kottarakkara garage which was built later, was built with our wood, our tiles and it has been done by the P. W. D. There is nothing wrong with it. It is said then that our P. W. D. is extravagant and that everything will be managed by commercial departments cheaply. That is not the case. If we look into the facts, you will see that commercial departments some-times spend very much more than the P. W. D. I cannot understand the reason why, especially when Government are insisting upon the use of our materials, woods and tiles, the Transport Department which is run with the money of Government, should put up a garage with iron girders and asbestos sheets. I mentioned only one instance and I propose to deal with it exhaustively if and when that department comes up at a later time. These are instances to show that care has not been taken to reduce expenditure to the minimum and if expenditure can be reduced, it is one of those departments which, I am sure, will yield a very large income to the Government. It can be and it ought to be run with greater advantage to the travelling public. People must be attracted to it. More convenience ought to be given. Such a big scheme, a scheme with such potentialities, should be worked properly and proper profits ought to be shown.

So also with the Ceramic Factory. I personally think—I am a lay man—that it is very presumptuous to hazard opinions on these matters. But I think, Sir, that there is a good deal of waste in that, because we try to compete with other well-established firms with regard to manufactured articles on porcelain. If we strictly confine our attention to the sale of clay, I think the Ceramic industry will be able to show greater profit. We do not get very exact figures, in re : the amount of loss that has been incurred by the breakages, the percentage of losses and all that. Therefore, I think, generally—I will put my suggestion this way. The running and management of commercial departments, which are expected to yield profits, must be controlled strictly and that a keener eye has to be kept on the overhead charges, because if we fail with regard to these industries, it will be a calamity. Even private enterprise will be stifled, because where a Government have failed, no private enterprise will think it possible to succeed in the attempt. Therefore, more than the financial aspect, there is the psychological aspect which we have to keep in mind and these will have to be very closely scrutinised.

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I wish to speak only generally with regard to the Budget. I feel that under the conditions in which we are, looking at the world conditions and the conditions in India, the anticipations with regard to almost all items are a bit too optimistic. Therefore what I say is, if the Financial Secretary succeeds in realising the anticipations, nobody will be more happy than I. Personally I think—and we will see facts this time next year—and I now say it, that the anticipations are a bit too optimistic If we realise that, well and good. Even if we do not, steps must be taken early enough to see that expenditure is reduced to the margin. The Financial Secretary has given under the item of retrenchment certain heads as though they were the vitamins of economy. But I think they are really not. We should not be satisfied with those items alone. Under that item I may suggest—if they can be called effective retrenchment some more such as, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor and the Protector of Depressed Classes, the Industries Director and the Labour Commissioner; the Financial Secretary could have stated that. Such things won't do. So I would suggest that the Financial Secretary should look forward and see that real economies are effected, and they can be effected if only the Financial Secretary and the Government will look into it more carefully and with the idea of effecting retrenchment.

I would suggest one other item, Sir. I wish to refer to the item by which the income of Government can be increased legitimately without affecting the poor people. I have absolutely no objection, and not only that, I appreciate the new measures of taxation adopted because they are the type and that is the principle on which any Government ought to get income. On the lines of that I would propose another method of taxation and which could augment the finances of the State. A tax on rubber lands is a possibility and I think without any difficulty, the tax could be increased to Rs. 3 per acre. I think it was one rupee at one time and then it was raised to two, and if it is two, it can be raised to three. It is perhaps the only agricultural product that fetches a real profit. It is the rubber owner who gets a profit and I think that, in these times, it will not be too much if we put an additional tax of one rupee on rubber lands for every acre.

Sir, nobody will grudge taxation, nobody will grudge the collection of money by Government, provided, of course, Government will always be ready to satisfy the people, that the money collected is well spent and that wasteful expenditure, unnecessary expenditure, is eliminated, and the expenditure reduced to the margin of efficiency. I have got only so much to say in a very general manner, regarding the Budget and I hope, Sir, that these matters will receive the attention of Government.

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Mr. T. W. U. Park (*Travancore Planters*): Sir, I should like to commend the Financial Secretary for the able way in which he has presented the Budget. Happily, in Travancore, we have no reason to foresee any need for a departure from the canons of orthodox finance, and similarly we can always expect to be presented with a plain, unvarnished statement exhibiting the country's financial position. In this particular connection, I welcome the decision to revalue Government investments and to show them in future at their purchase price. A step further would be to revalue these assets annually on the basis of their current market price, and I suggest such a course to Government for consideration.

Turning to the Budget proper there are two points on which I should like to offer a few observations. The first relates to the proposals for increased taxation and the purposes thereof. I believe that there are few in the State who could seriously cavil at increased taxation in these days. It is common knowledge that there are sections of the community already hard hit as a direct consequence of the war and its effects on world trade and the Government deserve all support and praise in its endeavour to relieve distress and want wherever they may occur. At the same time I feel sure that the Government will always be alive to the dangers and disadvantages inherent in any system of 'doles' and that they regard the present proposals as a temporary expedient only designed to tide matters over until relief works are in full swing or the affected industries recover from their present plight.

President: It has been so definitely stated and it had been intended to be a part of the economy of the state.

Mr. T. W. U. Park: Sir, I appreciate that point. In addition to the allevintion of distress it is satisfactory to note that Government are setting aside funds to enable the State to contribute, directly and indirectly, still further to the common war effort. Wholehearted support has been given in this House, and in another place, and in the country at large, to the firm resolve of His Highness's Government to contribute in every way possible to the prosecution of the war. In such circumstances I could not oppose on principle the imposition on the country of fresh taxation. However, I think I shall not be misunderstood when I ask that full weight and consideration be given to any representations which may be made on behalf of such industries as are already contributing out of their potential profits large sums through indirect taxation.

Before I leave this subject of taxation I should be interested to know whether Government is fully satisfied that in the year 1114 for which complete figures are now available there were in the State only 2,288 persons out of 6 million who were liable to pay income tax as individuals and that no appreciable number of persons escaped

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taxation. The other day in a speech it was indicated that the new taxation proposals were particularly welcome in that they affected the rich only and not the poor and the middle class. I thought that the speaker on that occasion did a grave disservice to many of his fellow citizens when, by implication, he credited them with no desire whatsoever to contribute their mite to the resources of the State in time of stress. Personally, I would rather believe that there are many who through their loyalty to and affection for their country would be only too willing, given the opportunity, to join this rather lonely band of 2,288 who pay income-tax as individuals.

And now to the second point on which I should like to make a brief remark. I regret to find in the Financial Secretary's speech no specific reference to the Control of Malaria, a subject to which his predecessor adverted last year. As a 'Nation Building Service'—to borrow the Financial Secretary's own head—the control of malaria is of first importance. The footnote on page 176 of the Budget suggests that the provision for mosquito control need not necessarily be considered a recurring one, whereas the fact is that the cost of anti-malarial measures must find a permanent place in the State's expenditure if an attempt is to be successfully made to root out of Travancore and keep out a scourge which is said to be responsible for over 20% of all deaths in India and which is responsible to an even greater degree for chronic ill health among the population. Even when malaria in endemic form has been much reduced—and we have yet to see satisfactory figures pointing to that achievement—the utmost vigilance must still be maintained against the day when a malaria epidemic breaks out again. This House must be put in possession of accurate statistical information regarding the incidence of malaria, and must be satisfied not only that money voted is being well and effectively spent but also that the funds provided are adequate. From personal experience I know that half measures in this instance are not only useless but may be positively dangerous.

Subject to these remarks and to any I may make at a later stage, I approve of the Budget as presented.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla (*Mavelikara and Tiruvella* cum *Pattanamtitta*) : I am glad that we are presented with a surplus Budget. But on going through its pages one wonders whether at the close of the year we will have really a surplus. Surplus comes mainly from a few items, mostly from customs. The revised estimates for 1115 for customs is Rs. 50 lakhs, and the Budget estimate for 1116 is Rs. 66 lakhs. There is a clear difference of 16 lakhs from that of the past year. The world situation is such that we are very doubtful how far this calculation will really be realised. Taking for example transport, the Budget Estimate for 1115 was

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Rs. 2 lakhs and odd, and the revised estimate is Rs 40,200. The Budget estimate for 1116 is Rs. 1,24,000. I doubt if for the year 1115 there is such a large difference, whether the Budget estimate for 1116 can be realised. I am quoting only two illustrations just to show how far we could really depend on a surplus budget as is presented to us. But at the same time I believe that we have a prosperity Budget. I think that the method that has been followed in the State to increase the income is the right method. I have only to add that whatever enterprise the State undertakes to do, the success of that enterprise depends mainly on the men whom Government will put in charge of. Most of the difficulties, to my mind, which the Governments in the world have met with in their enterprises depended mainly on the men who were in charge of such works. If we have the right kind of men, honest, righteous and sincere who will administer the departments for the common good I am sure that such enterprise will succeed in the end.

There is yet a second point by way of general remarks which I wish to point out, and that is with regard to the great difference in the amount of money that is spent mainly on towns and cities. This question has been brought to the notice of the Government and this House many a time. Deducting the salaries of our officers and the pension, the amount of money that is really spent on towns and Government buildings, I wonder how much we are spending on the rural man who pays the tax to the Government. I had not the time to work that out. But I hope that if I get the time I want to work it out and see how much is spent on people in the town and how much on people in the mofussil. I hope the head of the administration will himself make a calculation and find out how little is being spent for the people who really pay the tax.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Does not the honourable member realise that the conveniences in towns are being enjoyed not only by the people of the town but also by the people who come to the town?

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: I enjoy the amenities of the city of Trivandrum occasionally when I come here.

President: The honourable member will realise that there are practically no cities in this State. What exists in the State is described as a continous town of villages.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: In this connection I have to bring to the notice of the Government and the House, how surprising it is that some of the nation building departments do not spend the whole of the Budget allotments. Take for example the Education

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Department. The Budget allotment for education in 1115 was Rs. 53 lakhs, and the revised estimate is Rs. 51 lakhs. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor and the Director of Public Instruction have between them made a saving of Rs. 2 lakhs to the Government. Is the Government of Travancore so poor that these two honourable members should save Rs. 2 lakhs!!

Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan (*Pro-Vice-Chancellor*): The University accounts do not come in this Budget.

Mr. A. Gopala Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*): Savings in the Education Department are on account of salaries.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: I hope that these savings will be distributed amongst the poor grant-in-aid teachers who receive Rs. 5 and 6.

Then take the case of the Medical, Public Health and Sanitation Departments which ought to be really helpful to the people. The Budget estimate for 1115 was Rs. 14 lakhs. The amount that has been spent is only Rs. 13 lakhs and odd. Again I ask, why should there be a saving in this Department? If these Departments are really interested in the welfare of the average villager, how can these people ever save money? I do not at all congratulate the heads of these departments who saved money out of the nation-building enterprises for the sake of, I do not know who. The Government are able and strong enough to discover ways and means by which the means of the people can be improved.

Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan: Is not the honourable member aware that savings on salaries cannot normally be diverted to other heads?

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: I would be satisfied if the money so saved is utilised in 1116 for the very same purposes. That is a point which I have brought to the notice of the House and I am bringing it again to the notice of the House.

The third point which I wish to bring to the notice of the House and the Government is about Kandukrishi lands. This subject has been brought again and again to the notice of the Government and this House and the Chief Secretary himself is a man who is well acquainted with that question and I want to submit to you Sir, on behalf of the many poor agriculturists especially in Kuttanad and other areas that unless a change in the Government Order is made, the people will suffer and suffer very seriously. I was very glad to hear from the Chair that some orders would be issued in the course of a month. As head of the administration you, Sir, will kindly see that the promised order is made effective in the future.

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[Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla.]

There is a fourth point to which I would invite the attention of the House and that is about the enhancement on the expenditure side in connection with miscellaneous political charges. The revised estimates for political expenditure for 1115 was Rs. 4 lakhs. But the Budget estimate for 1116 is Rs. 8 lakhs.

Mr. S. Sundararajan: It includes the Rs. 5 lakhs we have budgeted for war purposes.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: I am thankful to the Financial Secretary for that information.

I have heard it said in another place that the Government have to spend money against the spread of socialistic and communistic ideas in this country. I am glad the Inspector-General is present here.

President: The honourable member cannot speak to members outside the limits of the House.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: I thought he was a member of this House.

I have had occasion to attend many meetings of young people in this country, students and others. I have heard them speak on several subjects. They speak of freedom, of the independence of individuals and of States. I have heard them immediately going on to speak about Russia and Stalin. I have asked them whether there is any freedom at all in Russia. At this moment I know that there is absolutely no freedom in any of the Dictactor countries. Freedom on the one side and admiration for communism on the other side do not always go together. My complaint is that we never had an opportunity to know what exactly is communism or socialism. In fact, yesterday Mr. Krishna Iyer said that if we pass the Debt Relief Bill that will be helping socialism. I entirely disagree with him. He said that it is expropriation. I do not know how we could differ so widely on the same subject. In the Financial Secretary's speech towards the close, it is said that the State itself is endeavouring on socialistic enterprises which I appreciate very much.

I have read in newspapers that it is said in another place that communism is spreading in this country. I have not heard of communism being advocated seriously but there are people who hold difference of opinion with regard to the administration. I have met a good number of State Congress people and there is not a single man who ever told me that he is disloyal to His Highness the Maharaja. Every man whom I met has expressed to me his extreme loyalty and sincere regard to His Highness the Maharaja. I have also to add that when the State Congress people withdrew the allegations against the head of the administration it means that they

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have no personal grievance or hatred towards the head of the administration. You will agree that in the method of administration there is bound to be difference of opinion. You Sir, who have been the Secretary of the Indian National Congress in its beginning and as one who has followed the political evolution in this country, will appreciate the differences of opinion and will see what is best in these differences of opinion and will work them out for the benefit of this country. I am very anxious to make the statement that I do not believe that there is any socialistic or communistic ventures in this country. But there may be difference of opinion with regard to the method of administration in this country. What I would suggest is that you should ask the Pro-Vice-Chancellor to institute a course of lectures on this subject if possible during the period of the Council so that we and our young men may talk intelligently about these things.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon (*Trivandrum and Nedumangad cum Chirayinkil*): Sir, I should like to make a few observations on this important occasion though I am not physically fit to make a speech.

Sir, I am glad to find that the Financial Secretary has so easily taken up the cue of his predecessors in understanding the policy of the administration of the country and has continued up all the items that are necessary for a progressive country like Travancore. I also congratulate him on his maiden speech before both Houses of the Legislature especially when I find in almost every page of his written speech that the goal of the policy of the administration is the contentment and happiness of the people of Travancore. I think that six or seven times this phrase is repeated in the speech and I wholly agree with him in saying that the administration of Travancore or, for that matter, of any other country is for the happiness and contentment of the people living in that country. If the Financial Secretary keeps up that motto I am sure that he will earn the eternal gratitude of the people of this country.

Sir, the Budget reveals as usual receipts amounting nearly to 3 crores or a little less and an expenditure almost equal to the receipts though there is a nominal surplus anticipated over a few lakhs of rupees. I find that on reading the items of expenditure nearly half of the total expenditure is being swallowed up by salaries ahd pensions. I think it is high time for Government to adopt measures for checking the growth of expenditure on these items. No doubt, I may be asked to suggest some methods for this instead of making general remarks and I will answer that it is for the Government to find out means and measures for this. I may also say in this connection that it is the expenditure on account of pension that is increasing year by year.

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President: Elsewhere I made an appeal to the honourable members with regard to the suggestion what is to be done with the pension. I hope some honourable member will enlighten the member on that point.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: I was just anticipating this remark from the Chair, Sir. I was only drawing the attention of Government to this important matter to see that measures are adopted to check the growth of expenditure on this item.

President: The honourable member may take it that the Government's attention is there already.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: What I want to suggest is, Sir, that the services of an expert may be utilised for finding out ways and means to minimise this item of expenditure. This item of expenditure has been increasing year by year and it has increased by 13 lakhs of rupees for the last ten years, as I understand. It is high time to find out some measure to prevent its increase. Otherwise the whole amount set apart for expenditure on several other items is likely to be swallowed by this item alone.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I know whether the expert should be a pensionable officer?

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: The service of the expert is required for a few months only. Whatever it is, my object is only to draw the attention of Government to this important matter as this item of expenditure is likely to swallow up the main portion of the receipts we get every year.

Then, I find from the budget that there is a continuation of the nation-building activities which have been begun during the last few years and I hope we will get the receipts as anticipated by the Financial Secretary from those sources.

No doubt, as a special feature of the next year's budget there is the provision of a few lakhs for war purposes and another few lakhs for the relief of distress which has arisen due to the unemployment of factory labourers. I may say in regard to the last item that the amount allotted is too small. It is not enough even to cover the needs of one or two taluks. Whatever it be, something is better than nothing. And I hope that this policy will be continued so long as this distress prevails in the State. Then about the allotment of a few lakhs for war purposes, I take it as a token grant only, because, I understand that His Highness the Maharaja has been pleased to place all the resources of the country for helping Great Britain at this hour of their need. I also understand, Sir, that the people of this country are heartily co-operating by organising private enterprises, like dances, and other things to collect funds for this very essential purpose.

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Now, Sir, I want to draw the attention of Government to one of the most serious problems that is facing the country at present. No doubt, the budget reveals a very glowing picture of a progressive country and I have to congratulate the Financial Secretary for depicting such a praiseworthy picture of the administration of Travancore. Sir, let me for a moment turn to the other side of the picture and examine what is seen there. Sir, I feel really sorry to say that the people of Travancore are now suffering from penury, sheer poverty and semi-starvation. If you go to the villages and the suburbs of a town like Trivandrum at dusk you can see hundreds and thousands of poor people, mostly women, gathering before petty provision stalls for making purchases for the morrow. These half naked, semi-starved human beings are possessed only with the smallest of the coins of the world—I mean, those bug—like things which we call cash. The whole of their purchases comprise of items of provisions worth the lowest possible minimum *viz.*, 1 nali of rice, 1 cash worth of salt, 2 cash worth of kerosene oil etc.. They put this small quantity of rice in a pot with 3/4th of water and boil it and satisfy their hunger with some preparations made out of nasty fish, for they are unable to get fresh and good fish. And almost in the middle of their meals the two cash worth of kerosene is exhausted and they complete their meal and go to sleep in darkness. Early next morning they go out for work almost with empty stomach. This is the general condition of the rural population in Travancore. I say, Sir, that it is time for Government to ponder over this state of affairs, and find out as early as possible suitable measures to relieve these people of their miserable condition. Sir, I would be glad if the head of the administration would spend half an hour daily to think over this problem to find out a suitable remedy. I would appeal to the heads of all departments to devote their attention to this, so that they could, whenever possible, try to relieve the condition of these poor people. Even if we go to Chalai in the morning you could see processions of women carrying loads of rice on their heads coming with the rice pounders on their shoulders and with their babies suckling at their breast. Government should also try to find out some method to alleviate their hardship. This shows that in the town itself poverty is rampant. I point out these instances so that officers of Government and the representatives of the people who are in this House should co-operate in finding out effective methods to alleviate the growing poverty among the people of this State. I would even suggest that this House may be transformed into a Service Society with you, Sir, as the President –not like the Service Society of which we hear so much in papers – but a society in which the members should vie with one another in the matter of rendering real service to the people with a view to relieve them of their present miserable condition. If

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[Mr. V. Sankara Menon.]

that spirit is caught and worked up, I am sure, Sir, we will have a different condition prevailing in the State. With these words, I take my seat.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail: Sir, without entering into a discussion about financial implications consequent upon the proposed independence of India or the relationship of the States with the Paramount Power, because, I believe that our State is in safer hands, let me enter into the budget proper. Sir, the budget that is placed before us anticipates a surplus of Rs. 13·67 lakhs. The Financial Secretary calls it an ideal state of affairs. Apart from the clear language and comparative figures which enables us to study and understand the budget easily I see nothing extraordinary in the budget placed before us. And I see that the Financial Secretary is conscious of it when he states on page 31 of his speech "that a surplus budget is not always an index of the prosperity of a country and that at times it may indicate a state of affairs where people are bearing an excessive burden of taxation." The 'ideal state of affairs' which the Financial Secretary contemplates is, to my mind, created by imposing an excessive burden on the people.

Let us for a moment divert our vision from this Council Chamber or from the city of Trivandrum to those villages scattered throughout the country. In places outside the towns that is to say, in the villages the conditions of the people are such that the statement of the Financial Secretary that our financial position shows an ideal state of affairs is falsified. Sir, if we consider for a moment how the people of our country parts live, the first impression that we could get is that most of them are starving without even a single meal a day. Even tapioca, the staple food of a majority of our people, is scarce. Perhaps the Financial Secretary, new to the State, may not be in a position to know this fact. One who goes round the villages of Travancore and also in towns, could understand that the question of beggary is assuming serious proportions and it is shown by the fact that in several towns the Municipalities and other semi-Government bodies are coming forward to tackle this problem which is growing to be a menace in this State. Sir, without the means of going to school, there are hundreds of children, nay, thousands, loitering in the streets with perhaps only loin clothes to cover their nakedness Labourers are now without any employment both in factories and in other fields. This problem is facing not only the workers but also the educated young men. Even in the hospitals where numerous patients are attended to the general complaint is about the dearth of medicines.

President: Have you heard such complaints occurring this year or in the previous years ?

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Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail : That is the general complaint heard everywhere.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : Is it on account of the war conditions prevailing now ?

President : That is the actual fact now. Even for love of money we cannot get medicine this year.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail : Yes, Sir only this year the complaint is greater. But these conditions will make us understand how the people in the country are suffering.

Again we find that numerous plots of land are being sold for arrears of land tax and for decree debts. If this is the actual state of affairs prevailing in the land I do not know how we can call the budget presented to us a prosperous budget when prosperity is unknown to the people of the country. Sir, even in the lower grade of public service there is dissatisfaction and grumblings. Take the case of low-paid teachers, constables and peons who are getting Rs. 11, or Rs. 10 or Rs. 7 per mensem. How can they make both ends meet with such low salaries. When there is this grumbling going on throughout the country, again I ask, how can this budget indicate any prosperous condition in the land. Perhaps those living in the town of Trivandrum enjoying all the amenities of civilised life pipe-water, electric lights and fans, motor cars and sumptuous meals may not be able to realise the implications of these serious problems facing the country in the rural parts.

But one redeeming feature of this budget is that it has provided Rs. 5 lakhs for the relief of distress of the unemployed labourers. My only complaint is that the allotment is not adequate to meet the situation. Another good feature of the budget is that a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs has been set apart for military and political emergencies. We have no objection in spending any reasonable amount to keep the peace and order of the country. This House will be ready to grant any amount for that purpose.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : May I remind the honourable member that that item is non-votable ?

President : If the honourable member really feels worried about it, he may speak.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail : Whether votable or not, any amount is justifiable. But one thing I wish to bring to the notice of the Government. There is a feeling rampant in the country that people are unnecessarily harrassed by minor officers. If these petty officers have any grudge against a man, however respectable he may be, he is dubbed as an anti-government man and troubled.

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President: Order, order. Honourable member is, of course, at entire liberty to deal with this matter in relation to the conduct and salaries of the officers. But the item which he now adverts to, namely, the ten lakhs of rupees for political and military expenditure has reference only to such forces that might have to be raised in the course of the war either in the way of Civic Guards or Territorial Forces for the purpose of meeting the emergency due to the war. So these remarks are not particularly cognate to this item, though of course, it is open for the honourable member to remark upon a particular officer.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail: But it is quite possible to drag in the Defence Rules. Therefore my submission is that the Government should be very careful to see that not a single innocent man is punished. I am very glad to note that you, Sir, have in another place indicated that each individual case will be given the closest attention and scrutiny by the Government and that action would be taken only after carefully considering the various factors. What I wanted to emphasise on this point is that no single innocent man should suffer because of the whims and fancies of some officer who may have some grudge against him.

Then, let me point out another important matter. The working expenses in all our departments have enormously increased. The Financial Secretary on page 14 of his speech introducing the Budget for 1116 states that:—

> "the paramount necessity for exercising economy in expenditure has weighed with Government so much that the axe has been ruthlessly applied on all items of expenditure which could without impairing the efficiency of the services, be well cut down".

He has given certain instances also. So far so good; but much more could be done in this direction. There was some proposal that members should give practical suggestions to bring down the expenditure in the working of the several departments of the State. The most important factor that has to be considered is whether we can afford so much money that we are now spending for the salaries of the officers. I know that I have been speaking for the last four years in connection with the discussion of the Budget, that it is impossible for the State of Travancore to give more than Rs. 500 to any officer by way of salary. Of course, there can be exceptions. But, it cannot be more than Rs. 500 as a general rule. Nobody in Travancore requires more than a sum equal to this amount for leading a decent life. We have also to consider the point, the desirability of increasing the pay of low-paid officers, at least to Rs. 15, giving them thereby the facility to lead a suitable life. On this matter, there is no conflict of opinion among the several members of the legislature. The enormous increase in salary is

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necessitated by what is called 'personal pay' which is rapidly increasing now-a-days. I must say that this personal pay is given to officers because of the fact that they are imported from outside. We have heard it said that we get down proper hands from outside for the purpose of utilising their technical knowledge. They are called experts in their own lines. We have seen the working of several experts in our State. We have noticed the progress of the Rubber Expert Mr. Helen. We have seen what the commercial expert for the Trade Agent had been doing, we know what little we got from the expert Dr. Kamesam. I do not want to go into the details of these cases. Why, as for that matter, we know for what purpose Dr. Parameswaran has been got down?

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: May I know as what expert he has been brought down here

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail: I understand that he has been brought down for the Travancore University for some scientific purposes. Now he is working as the Public Service Commissioner. I do not know what place an expert brought down for some scientific work has in the Public Service Office. I do not know what expert knowledge is required for the Public Service Commissioner's place. What is more, he is given a higher salary than that given to the High Court Judges here. My point is that if this personal pay is to be stopped, the importation of outsiders must first be stopped.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I know whether the honourable member is aware that Dr. Parameswaran is a Travancorean?

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail: He may be a Travancorean but he has been imported from outside the State service.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Has he surrendered his domicile?

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail: I do not mean that.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: May I know whether he ceases to be a Travancorean because he has gone outside?

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail: No, Sir. That is all the more reasonable why he should be paid only Rs. 500, the maximum we can afford to pay.

Sir, the next important question that arises for consideration is the one relating to pensions. No officer should be given pension, but instead every officer entering public service should be made compulsorily to contribute to a Provident Fund. That is my suggestion for the curtailment of the huge expenditure by way of pensions.

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Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Iyer (*Nominated*): May I know what the honourable member has to suggest with regard to people who are about to retire?

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail: Of course, as far as the present incumbents are concerned, I do not think any change can be effected in the existing rule.

President: Now that he has made this suggestion let me point out to him that the people who draw the amount under the Provident Fund apparently spend as soon as they retire and the result is that they go to swell the list of unemployed. That is what is really happening elsewhere.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail: If there are such people who will spend the whole amount as soon as they get it they must reap the consequences.

President: Supposing some marriage crops up and then the poor man cannot find the funds to conduct the ceremony.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail: That is exactly the reason why we should tell them when they enter service as to what they are going to get after retirement.

President: This is a matter of considerable importance, and Government have presented an open mind on this subject and the suggestions of honourable members may be of assistance to Government in dealing with this matter. But it must be borne in mind that the matter is complicated by some circumstances. A pension is given in order that a man, who has served the State faithfully for a long time, might keep himself in tolerable comfort during the latter years of his life. The pension is not normally attachable so that he will feel secure and will never be absolutely destitute. The hope of getting such a pension keeps many people above temptations. The expediency of instituting a system of Provident Fund has been mentioned more than once. But the point is that over and above the heavy commitments on behalf of Government if a person draws the Provident Fund and the Government contributions in a lump, he may soon find himself, in spite of all possible inflexibility of ideas and determination, penniless because he may be tempted or persuaded to spend the amounts on a marriage or other similar affair. The result is that his position will be not much better than when he started his service. That is the position which confronts Government and if honourable members are able to bestow their mind and suggest a practical solution of this question of pensions, which has been giving a headache to Government, they will be very glad.

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Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail: It is also possible to frame rules to pay the provident fund spread over a period of years after retirement.

President: You must legislate for inalienability, and supposing the pensioner goes outside then, your doctrine of inalienability will not apply.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail: If an officer getting a provident fund is so callous, I say he must suffer for it

President: Very good.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail: Sir, then, in the matter of curtailing expenditure, I should also suggest the cutting down of the expenditure by way of travelling allowance. It must be the earnest attempt of the Government to see that the allowances are cut down.

Another important factor that has to be considered in this connection is the wastage of money in all the departments. I am sure that this is so not only in the Transport Department, but in every other department.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Sir, may I know who stated that there is leakage in the Transport Department?

Mr. T. Muham ed Ismail: My statement was that there is wastage. It is said by an honourable member who spoke before me that there is wastage in the Transport Department. What I mean is that in every department much more money than what is necessary is, being spent.

Mr. T. K. Kitten (*Vaikom Kottayam and Changanacherry cum Peermade*): വളരെ പണം ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലും ചില വാക്കുന്നു എന്നു മെമ്പർ പറയുകണ്ടായി. ശരിയായി കണക്കുംമറും എഴുതിവച്ചിട്ട് അധികമായി ചിലവാക്കുന്നു എന്നാണോ പറയുന്നതു്. അങ്ങിനെയാണെങ്കിൽ.....

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail: ആവശ്യത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ ചിലവാക്കുന്നു എന്നാണ് ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതിന്റെ അർത്ഥം.

Mr. T. K. Kitten: എല്ലാം ശരിയായി നടക്കുന്നുണ്ട് എന്നുള്ള ഉദ്ദേശത്തിലാണ് ഞാൻ ഈ ചോദ്യം ചോദിച്ചതു്. അനാവശ്യമായ പണം പോകുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതിനെപ്പറ്റി അന്വേഷിക്കേണ്ടതും അതു തടയേണ്ടതുമാണ്.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail: എല്ലാം ശരിയായി നടക്കുന്നില്ല. അനാവശ്യമായി ധാരാളം പണം ചിലവാക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. നാം എല്ലാവരും ചേർന്നു അതുതടയണം.

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[Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail.]

As to my friend's question, I can give an instance about the P. W. D. Suppose a bridge is to be constructed. If the department is diligent and able to exercise proper supervision and control perhaps, the construction can be effected for ten thousand rupees. What happens now is that the department entrusts the work to a contractor for Rs. 15,000 and the contractor has to give tips to various officers in the department who shut their eyes in the matter of scrutiny and Rs. 5,000 is wasted thereby. I do not say that big officers are receiving bribes but small officers are subject to temptation. I hope honourable member Mr. Kittan will understand from this illustration how money is wasted. Sir, leaving these important matters for the consideration of the Government and the House, let me be allowed to point out one fact, namely, the serious injustice done to the Muslim community.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : Sir, is there no time limit ?

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail : Sir, I was interrupted often.

President : Yes ; where a certain honourable member is interrupted, I generally give him time occupied by the interruption in addition. I should like to do that in this case also. But the best thing in regard to the general discussion of the Budget would be not to interrupt a speaker at all so that honourable members may be able to say what they have to say within fifteen minutes because within that time they have to speak about the whole administration.

Honourable member will have two minutes more.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail : Yes, Sir. I am speaking about the serious injustice done to the Muslim community in so far as they are excluded from the recruitment to the infantry of the State.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : Sir, on a point of order.

President : Order, order ; I do not quite follow.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail : That is to say, I am criticising the policy of the Government for excluding the Muslim community from recruitment to the infantry of the State.

President : Mr. Chief Secretary.

Mr. M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar : Sir, I shall look into that and answer the question.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail : I think I can proceed.

President : Yes.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail : The community has been worrying over the question of their exclusion from the infantry of the State for the last so many years. Sir, the Muslim community

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which has been serving the country loyally and faithfully from the very beginning, is denied the privilege of entering into the military and serving their country, a country for the preservation of which, I can say boldly, the Muslims have shed their very blood. I ask the Government whether it is right to deny them this privilege. When questions were asked on several occasions by Muslims and their associations, we are not given any satisfactory answer.

President : I am rather at a loss to understand what he is aiming at. Honourable member must be aware that His Highness' Body Guard consists almost entirely of Muslims and I am not aware of any order precluding or preventing recruitment of Muslims ; on the other hand, it must be remembered that the original infantry of Travancore was called a Nair Brigade or a Nair Infantry and that subsequently specific communities were recruited. I do not think, subject to further verification and further correction, that there is any prohibition or inhibition against recruitment of Muslims to the infantry. I do not quite follow the honourable member unless he is sure of the fact.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail : Sir, I am sure of the fact that no Muslim is entertained in the infantry. I do not know whether there is a specific rule to that effect or not. But the fact is that they are excluded. Wherever the recruiting party goes, Muslims are not admitted for recruitment. As for the statement you have made that preference is given in the Body Guard to the Muslims, I may say that there are only sixty persons in the cavalry and that 50 per cent. representation is given to Muslims ; moreover the fact that Muslims are employed in the Body Guard shows how loyal we are to His Highness the Maharaja. But the infantry consists of more than 2,000 people. And we are denied entrance there. Sir, history shows that we were more loyal than others. There was no doubt about it and the Dewan-President has stated recently that the Muslim community had stood by the Government *en bloc*. If that is so, where is the reason to debar us from this job ? If there is any doubt about our efficiency, say so.

Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan : May I ask the honourable member on what authority he makes the statement that Muslims are excluded from military service?

President : As a matter of fact I myself was rather taken aback when he said that. His contention may be that in fact there are nobody in service.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail : That is so. I assert that in fact no Muslim is recruited. When we approach the recruiting party we are told that we won't be recruited.

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President: The honourable member has one minute more.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail: If Muslims outside Travancore are treated as a martial class why not give them the same privilege here? If efficiency is to be tested, I challenge the Government to select 100 trained men from the infantry to try their strength with 50 ordinary Muslims from the street. Sir, we are purposely excluded from the infantry and I want, and the Muslim community expects, a clear answer from the Government.

(*President's bell*)

Mr. James Fletcher: Sir, in spite of the war and the war conditions the Financial Secretary has succeeded in giving us a balanced budget. He has also shown a very good surplus. The budget is worthy of commendation. But what matters more is our financial position and our financial progress. In that sphere we have been following a forward policy. Our budgets have been soaring steadily to higher and higher peaks without recourse to any oppressive taxation. Our programme of reproductive works is something of which we may justly be proud.

The present age is an age of wholesale national planning. The idea and the impetus of such planning have already emanated from the head of the administration. We have a splendid programme of industrialisation and economic reconstruction. What I wish to suggest is the amplification of that plan and that programme till that embraces all our national needs. In most of these spheres where the need is urgent it must be conceded that something is being done, attempted or projected. But much remains to be done. Taking for instance Sir, the vexed problem of unemployment which is the bugbear of most modern governments we have allotted in the coming year a sum of 17,400 rupees for cottage industries. We expect some relief from the cottage industries which are to rise in the wake of our industrial schemes. At a cursory view of our affairs in Travancore one may mention for cottage industries the manufacture on a cottage industry basis of paper out of our waste materials, pencils out of our forest wood and graphite deposits which are available in Travancore to an unlimited extent, and the manufacture of cigars and cigaretts and beedies. The standardisation and marketing of hand-loom products hold very great prospects.

Take again the problem of indebtedness of the masses which has been seriously engaging the attention of the Government and legislature. What about the ways and means of affording actual relief to debtors. The concession contemplated in the Bill will not, I am afraid, go far, and relieve the burden of debt within a reasonable time. The ways and means remain to be planned and worked

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out. Again, what guarantee is there that the debtor once liberated from his debt will not run into it again? If that evil is to be prevented the root causes of indebtedness must be found out and eradicated. We know some of the causes such as the fragmentations of holdings, uneconomic and unscientific methods of cultivation and marketing. But we have not yet tackled the problem in right earnest. Early in the evolution of Japan into an efficient and well-built modern power, its Government legislated not merely for the prevention of uneconomic fragmentation but for the compulsory consolidation of fragmentary holdings. Something will have to be done in that pattern for Travancore also.

Turn to the Public Works Department. It is some consolation to find that the Advisory Committee is helping to draw up comprehensive plans spread over a number of years for perfecting our system of communications by land and water. While I speak on the Public Works Department a word will not be amiss about the State Transport Department. The State Transport Department has not fulfilled its expectations on account of various causes, besides the increase in the cost of materials and the condition of the roads which contribute to the high running costs. When the programme of dustless surfacing of roads which is now in full swing in the southern taluks has covered the whole of the State we may expect a vast improvement in every respect. The complaints however of the infrequency and insufficiency of buses needs serious attention. I would urge the suggestion for the constitution of not only one Advisory Body but two Advisory Bodies, one for the southern taluks, and one for the northern so that those Advisory Bodies may know the local needs.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I know whether the member means some thing in the nature of autonomous units?

Mr. James Fletcher: There is no question of autonomous units for knowing the local needs of the southern and northern taluks. It is well known that their needs can be best appreciated by local men. I did not think of amplifying the point. Only local men can understand where more buses are needed and adjust the service according to the needs of particular places. That is why I suggest that every member of the Advisory Committee must have a clear idea of the local needs. We may have one for the southern and another for the northern taluks without making any distinction of autonomous bodies and non-autonomous bodies.

I may admit that the present arrangement of having at least one Advisory Body will be of some use. Even for that Advisory Body people from every taluk must be taken as members, so that they may give the necessary information and instruction for the running of these bus services.

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Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Are there automobile experts in every taluk?

Mr. James Fletcher: I am speaking in this instance not with reference to any expert in automobile works, but with reference to the general insufficiency and inadequacy of services which is being complained of from every part of Travancore.

Then I may refer to another department. Perhaps in the department of Fisheries and Marine Biology we find the greatest drive side by side with scientific research. What is now being done is, I believe, on the right lines and full of promise for the future. As the Dewan-President has pointed out, the scope for the development of our Marine Fisheries is simply immense. The solution for our food problem, so to speak, lies on the sea which we overlook from a sea-board of nearly 170 miles. The story of the recent marvellous development of fisheries of the Bombay coast, where they have taken trawlers and up-to-date methods of deep-sea fishing, shows how a huge industry has sprung up almost over-night bringing wealth and food to the people and revenue to the Government, and giving rise to various subsidiary industries including boat building and other works in connection with the trade. We are in a more advantageous position than Bombay, for the seas of our coast, being at the meeting of the waters of large oceans, are likely to afford better ground for fishing. It is therefore high time for us to make a start in the deep-sea fishing with at least a couple of trawlers. Our inland waters themselves are not negligible sources of wealth. It has been declared on good authority that an acre of inland water can produce as much food and of more nutritious value than an acre of land. The problem of breeding and stocking, of close seasons and protection, all call for investigation and after investigation, planning. Sir, the national planning I have advocated has already been begun by Government. The industrial scheme is part of it; the University is part of it, the Research Branch and the Labour Corps bear ample testimony to that foresighted and well thought out national planning.

Sir, since contentment of the people is *sine qua non* of ordered progress, I do not think it amiss to urge the need for meting out full communal justice to all, and in particular the Latin Catholic community. The grievance of the community in the matter of representation in the public service is a longstanding one in spite of the strides it has made in education in recent years. Numbering about four lakhs and having produced candidates fully qualified for service in almost all branches of the Government, the community has hardly made much headway. They have little or no representation in the Secretariat, Judicial Department, Education Department, and in several other major departments. Among the 30

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Stationary Second Class Magistrates in the State there is not a single Latin Catholic. Even when 9 magistrates were lately recruited direct from the Bar no selection was made from this community. The same can be said of recruitment in many other departments on many other occasions. Such communal inequalities it is admittedly the intention of the Government to remove. The complaint is that the intention is not enough, it must be translated into practice by those who are charged with the execution of Government policies and programme. Both from the point of view of equity and of the need for speeding up our national plan of regeneration the removal of such communal grievances is a primary duty of the Government.

Then of equal importance like communal justice is communal harmony. Both are to a certain extent interdependent. While Government are endeavouring to promote these ends it is regrettable to find that a certain journal has been making itself conspicuous in undoing goodwork and creating conflict between communities as well as scandalously maligning Government officers it dislikes.

Mr. M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: May I state that action has already been taken in the matter.

Mr. James Fletcher: One can rightly ask in this connection whether the officer who is charged with the duty of bringing such vagaries to the notice of Government is doing his work thoroughly without any fear or favour.

In conclusion allow me to cast a glance on the war situation which might have repercussions on our plans. It is undoubtedly our duty even at the risk of retarding our progress to render all help and service and to make all sacrifices in our power in aid of Great Britain. The provision of ten lakhs of rupees for war purposes has our whole-hearted approval. Following the noble lead of His Highness the Maharaja the country at large has already proclaimed its eagerness to do every thing possible in aid of the war. You may rest assured Sir, that whatever measure is decided upon by you to support the British Government will have our whole-hearted and enthusiastic response.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Sir, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Financial Secretary for his arduous labours in preparing the budget for 1116 and his honest attempts to make it as luminous as possible under the present circumstances. Though I do not generally agree with his budgeting dispositions and robust optimism, I cannot but express my admiration for the splendid way in which he has tried to couch a deficit budget as a balanced, nay a surplus one. Indeed, it is a feat that could be performed only by men of uncommon optimism and talented in making a jugglery of figures.

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For the coming year the Financial Secretary according to his own "*modus operandii*" in preparing and fixing the estimates tells us that there will be a surplus revenue of nearly 13·67 lakhs. I for one Sir, am not so sanguine about the receipts and expenditure as forecasted by the Financial Secretary. I consider this Budget which has been presented undoubtedly with a considerable amount of self-complacency and self-satisfaction by the Financial Secretary, as fundamentally a deficit budget. The estimates anticipate for 1116 an increase of revenue under land revenue, forest, customs etc., I sincerely wish that the expectations may be realised in the year and I turn out to be a bad prophet. But are we not over-sanguine, Sir, in our expectations ? We have now to assume that the present slump in trade would vanish away, that the general economic condition will improve, that in the wake of a new commercial and industrial revival the buying capacity of the people will increase, and a host of other kindred consoling circumstances and changes.

The House adjourned for lunch at 1 P. M. and re-assembled at 2 P. M. the President presiding.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : I am speaking, Sir——

Mr. E. K. Kuripe : സർ, ഞങ്ങടെ മലയാളത്തിൽ സംസാരിക്കുന്നവർ ന്യൂ പേരുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഞങ്ങടെക്കുകൂടി സമയം തരണം.

President : The matter will be considered.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : I was speaking, Sir, that the Financial Secretary in anticipating a surplus revenue for the ensuing year, is undoubtedly, speculating on the probable effects of the operations of uncertain world factors. Of course, the Financial Secretary may be quite thorough with all the papers before him ; unquestionably, Sir, he may be talented in figures, nay much more he may be in manipulating them; but I must say that unfortunately this vast country with its increasing population, with its crores of debts, with its thousands of demand notices, this country, I say, Sir, lies far beyond the precincts of the Financial Secretariat I must submit, Sir, that under the present conditions it is by far better to err on the safe side rather than make certain extravagant forecasts and build up our expenditure on such insecure foundations.

Sir, the medical budget provides a sum of Rs. 16,000 for new items of expenditure which include nursing facilities and tuberculosis and leprosy survey. Sir, after repeated clamours from this side of the House Government have agreed to open a tuberculosis sanatorium in Travancore and if information is correct, a site somewhere

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near Nagercoil was pitched upon some time back, but what steps were further taken by Government in this direction we are completely in the dark.

Mr. M. S. Doraswami Aiyangar: The work is in progress.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: I thank the honourable member, Sir, for the information. Sir, I fully endorse the view expressed by my honourable friend the representative of the Planters' interest regarding malaria expidemic. It is really regrettable to note that in the Financial Secretary's speech not a single word is mentioned with reference to the malaria epidemic, which was raging with unprecedented vigour and virulence in Nedumangad and Neyyattinkara taluks. Sir, due to weather conditions there is a set back to its rapacity for the last few months, and, may be, Government as once before, are probably under the impression that they have been able to combat the malady successfully. Sir, without the least exaggeration I would inform the House, that, over 90 per cent of the population in the affected area have fallen a prey to this fell malady and it would indeed be a short-sighted, suicidal policy on the part of Government to stint expenditure to exterminate this pest. Complete eradication of malaria was considered to be an impossibility till Sigr Mussolini's splendid achievement in Italy. Sir, in the interest of the health, happiness, nay, the very life of a significant portion of the people of this country, I would appeal to you, Sir, to concentrate a bit in this direction and completely erradicate this terrible malady from this State and thereby earn the undying gratitude of thousands of the people of this land of charity.

Sir, in paragraph 12 of the Financial Secretary's speech it is stated that "the Excise revenue and the receipts of the commercial Departments, viz, Transport and Ceramics, have not, however, been able to come up to our anticipations." The fall in the Excise revenue, according to the Financial Secretary is due mainly to the fall in the consumption of Jaffna tobacco. It is curious to note that the self-same excuse was given last year also. Are we to believe that all of a sudden the people of Travancore have eschewed the use of tobacco to the value of several thousands of rupees, or are we to conjecture that the preventive measures adopted by Government to check smuggling at the northern frontier have hopelessly failed? I think, Sir, the latter conjecture is correct and we have the support of the Chief Secretary for that. This is what the Chief Secretary to Government observes in the Administration Report of the Excise Department for 1114:—

"Government observe that there has been a gradual fall in the consumption of raw tobacco of late and this cannot be entirely accounted for by the economic depression and the rise in the consumption of manufactured tobacco. Government fear that the

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steady decline in the consumption of raw tobacco is partly due to the smuggling of contraband tobacco in the State. They are sorry to note that, in spite of the armed forces and other additional staff sanctioned for the department recently, smuggling has not been brought under sufficient control and they trust that the Excise Commissioner will impress upon his subordinates the necessity for greater vigilance in this matter". May I hope, Sir, the department would take the warning and advice, and try to come up to our expectations by this time next year.

Referring to the Transport Department, Sir, the Financial Secretary says that notwithstanding the opening of new lines, the revenue will probably suffer a set-back. The current year's budget estimates of net receipts from commercial transport was Rs. 2,66,736. But this ambitious figure has dwindled to Rs. 40,200 in the revised estimate. Sir, the reason for this fall in the net receipts of the Transport Department is said to be the rise in price of petrol, oil and similar things, due to the present war. A deficit of Rs. 2,40,000 is easily laid at the door of war. Now, one may legitimately ask in this connection how long is it since the war broke out and how much has the price of petrol and other things increased as a result of war? No, Sir, to be frank, the real cause must be searched elsewhere. Sir, it is too much to think that the rise of two or three annas in the price of petrol per gallon and that in driblets spread over three or four well-marked stages, is responsible for this tremendous pulling down of the net receipts of the Transport Department. In this connection I am constrained to observe, that there is something radically wrong in the Transport Department as it is functioning to-day. I do not go to the extent of saying as my friend Mr. Ismail did, that there is leakage of revenue in that department but I would content myself by drawing the pointed attention of Government that there is something radically, inherently wrong in the actual working of the department. Sir, it is so gratifying to note that Government have come forward with a proposal to constitute an Advisory Board for the Transport Department. I trust, Sir, that with the formation of the proposed Advisory Board and by a more watchful and vigilent supervision by the Government, the department would metamorphose to a more useful and profitable concern, as was fondly hoped, unhesitatingly assured, and as it ought to be, by this time next year.

President: The honourable member has only two minutes more.

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Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Looking at the budget, Sir, I cannot help remarking that while capital works and new ventures are to be amply financed, there appear to be a tendency to parsimony in the matter of improving the lot of the rural inhabitants. In my opinion, the allotment of Rs. 60,000 for rural uplift, is very meagre. You have, Sir, expressed and reiterated with added emphasis on many an occasion in the past that the salvation of this State lay not in agriculture but in industrialisation by means of a net work of cottage industries. We also, Sir, on this side of the House, were crying hoarse that greater concentration must be bestowed on resuscitating dead and done, and in developing the dying and decaying cottage industries of the country. It is rather regrettable to find, in spite of these facts, that only a small sum of Rs. 17,400 is set apart for cottage industries. The Financial Secretary evidently with supreme satisfaction says that there is also the industrial loans to boot. But, Sir, if he had the courtesy or the patience to study the history of the industrial loans in this State especially after the present incumbent came to guide the destiny of the Industries Department, I am sure the Financial Secretary would not have rest consoled himself thus.

President: The honourable member will finish quickly.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Sir, I will be failing in my duty if I do not take this opportunity to thank the Government for the timely, prompt step they have taken in trying to alleviate the sufferings of the thousands of labourers thrown out of employment in Alleppey and suburban regions. You, Sir, in the joint session of the Assembly and the Council stated:

> "I am glad to say, in this connection, that the concreting of the 50 mile road between here and Cape Comorin has served the useful purpose of employing large groups of labour, and the construction of the Public Offices also has alleviated to a certain extent the condition of the poor people at this moment".

Sir, thanks to your downright tenacity of purpose and farsighted statesmanship, inspite of the financial stringency and even in spite of adverse criticism from certain interested quarters, the dustless concrete road from Trivandrum to Cape Comorin, is unfortunately nearing completion. I say unfortunately advisedly because till now these works have given employment to thousands of labourers in South Travancore a majority of whom in the absence of this bold venture on your part would have by this time joined the majority. The new Public Office buildings are also nearing completion. Sir, this means, that, a big battalion of labourers would be thrown out of employment. If the Government at this critical juncture fails to provide sufficient work for these labourers, the result is unthinkable. I would in this connection make a humble suggestion for the consideration of Government. From the budget allotment it is happy

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to see that the Town Planning Scheme is to be resuscitated. A lump sum allotment is provided for reclamation and improvement of the Tampanoor valley. From the point of view of sanitation and public health, this unhealthy, detestable part of the town, I mean the Tampanoor valley, should necessarily be improved. Construction of huge buildings or bridges cannot confer employment for large numbers of poor unskilled labourers, as work of this nature would provide. I urge that the Government would bestow the deserving consideration to this suggestion and would.....

[*President's Bell.*]

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Sir, before I speak on the Budget proper, allow me to advert to the remarks made by my honourable friend Mr. Kottoor Kunjukrishna Pillai. It is regrettable that he allowed himself to make certain remarks about people in other spheres with which a member of the State Legislature is not really concerned. But it must not be understood that all of us subscribed to the very heroic view taken up by my honourable friend. Whatever the Princely Order might feel about their ancient sanads, treaties, obligations or terms of equality with the Crown which by the way a former Viceroy of India made clear to His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad, it is very clear that the people of India are not behind the rest of India in hoping for the unity of India. We are not very much concerned whether it is independence for India or the grant of Dominion Status of the Westminster type. Any way, it is quite clear that all the component parts of the Indian Empire, I mean the people, are one in believing that we want constitutional units to form the great federation of the future. Units of different stages of feudal growth or feudal decay do not form a modern federation. Therefore, I think, Sir, that you will very sympathetically understand the view point of the people of the States and I am fully confident that this Government have also realised that point of view because it had appointed a Special Officer to go into the question of Federation. That is why my friend's picture seems to be like that of the brave Spanish knight who tilled against the wind—mill—this friend against the rock of democracy—I perfectly allow him that luxury. If the voice in the State is not very vehement or insistent now, it is because of the peoples' inherent appreciation of the difficulties of constitutional Government at the present time. In that connexion, Sir, I am reminded of the attitude of an Excise man under some early French King who said that he had 14 powerful reasons to obey his Majesty, namely his wife and 13 children. It is in some such attitude that people do not make their voice felt as they used to do before the war. In this connexion, Sir, I will appeal to you and

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to Government that those people who are now undergoing imprisonment in the several jails for political offences may be released. Even according to the reckoning of the police authorities, it is all safe and calm in this State. There is no danger of any violence. Thus, it behoves Government to set free those individuals who suffer for their opinions. I shall be failing in my duty if I do not request Government that it is high time that those laws which were promulgated direct may be annulled, I mean Regulation I of 1114 and Regulation X of 1114. They are Regulations of which one is not very proud.

Regarding the budgetary position, I am glad that the Government can face the next year without any anxiety. But I find that very little beyond the routine budget is provided and I say that deliberately, because the nation-building departments including Education, are a little neglected. Year after year, I have been talking about the necessity of providing better buildings for elementary schools, giving them furniture, giving the children studying in those institutions mid-day meal, clothes, books etc. But unfortunately, no provision is made for any such programme next year. I am not very happy in so far as the Financial Secretary could not find his way to increase the export duty on the wasting assets of the land, I mean, in particular, the mineral sands that are being exported from our land. In another State I find that the mineral wealth of the country which was being exploited was highly taxed so that the benefit of inflation during war could go to that State. But, here, I find that very valuable minerals for which this country has a monopoly are being exported for a song by powerful syndicates. Incidentally Sir, I may also bring to the attention of Government the great harm done on the sea-coasts by the powerful 'big business.' 'Big business' whether in Travancore or elsewhere has certain irresistible ends. The District officers—I do not want to enter into any controversy—do things in their own way. Porambokes kept for communal purposes are being invaded and I am told-I am subject to correction and I am a layman in this matter-that mineral sands other than those catalogued in the export list are secretly being collected and shipped abroad. If I am wrong I should be allowed to withdraw this point for I have no direct knowledge of it. It is high time that Government make some surprise inspections to these places and see whether any costly minerals other than those not catalogued are secretly shipped abroad. It is not a matter on which one can be cocksure because I am told that this Government is very trustful in these matters. They ask the chemist or the geologist of those companies to analyse what the sands contain and what are the things that are being shipped. Anyway, if this is going to be allowed for long, I am sure, the mineral wealth which is

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not inexhaustible in this country, is going to be depleted. More than that, there is the great danger of erosion of the sea. It is a very pathetic sight to see the fisherfolk, mainly on the coastal areas of Karunagapally, compelled to find out for themselves new abodes because, most of their homesteads are being washed away partly perhaps by natural forces operating in the sea and partly by artificial reasons on account of the unscientific removal of sands from the beach by the firms who have mineral licences.

President: We have taken action wherever that kind of thing has taken place against the company concerned.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: You must pardon me when I say from my personal experience that a land which was claimed to be a burial ground of the Arayas was reported not a burial ground by a very self-assertive district officer, and from which tons of bones were quarried. They were the old bones of poor Arayas.

Sir, it will be graceless on my part if I do not enlighten Government on another point.

President: I was wondering whether the honourable member was referring to the same case which I had in view. There was some question about a cemetery and the Government upheld that it was a cemetery.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: My point is not that the Government wanted to do any harm to the poor Arayas who are living a peaceful life in that coastal region. But it is about the unimaginative officers, that I want to refer in this connection. The un-imaginative officers are influential and friendly and at the same time sympathetic to 'big business' and do things which ultimately end in discredit to Government. I am adopting the very phrase used by my honourable friend so as not to wound the susceptibility of 'big business'.

In this connection I also want to urge on the Government the necessity for having the same standard of justice when a poor Proverthicar or Accountant in his misery, commits temporary misappropriation of Rupees five or ten as when bigger folk commits offences. The poor Proverthicar is sent up to the Court of Sessions and asked to stand a trial; eventually he would be convicted. Could not the same be applied when such an offence is committed by bigger officers? I was told – I am subject to correction—that a big district officer has almost become an Iron-king in Travancore by stealing iron. I read in the papers that the Police found out as thondy, some of the iron things that were originally placed in the Port Office at Alleppey, and then we did not hear anything more about it. I am quite aware that in these matters Government do

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not stand by communal popularity or unpopularity. Therefore, Sir, I would specially appeal that whenever it comes to the notice of Government that an officer has misbehaved, committed larceny according to English nomenclature, he must be seriously dealt with. I am rather treading on very delicate ground. I do not feel any disparagement to any person when I say that some of the officers, I am afraid, give the impression I do not say they are exploiting—that they are interesting themselves in some sort of demonstrably loyal activity to honour the name of the august Ruler or his minister. I know, Sir, that the head of the administration has sufficient sense of humour, he has sufficient sense of proportion and shrewdness to see and perhaps to enjoy the antiques played by some of these officers. Sir, the presentation of portraits, taking part in memorials etc., are all very good in their own way. These officers may be shaken hands with for their laudable activities; they may be given some bouquets or some honour like that. But when it comes to a matter of departmental administration, of doing their official duties, these officers should be given the occasion to feel that their extra activities would not help them if they go out of the way. I am consciously reticent about that.

President: The honourable member may be interested to know that institutions or persons who indulge in activities of this kind, are first of all discouraged from doing so. Unless they demonstrate the utility of those activities, they are not given permission to do things of that kind. Secondly, if they expect any advantage thereby they find themselves in utter delusion. A number of orders have been passed on the subject. Whenever such a man puts in a memorial, generally it is refused. We have about a hundred cases of that nature.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Yes, Sir, A departmental head told me that it will be more a disservice if any person applies for recognition or grant to some institutions with advantageous names appended.

We are deeply grateful to the Government for honouring public opinion by appointing an Advisory Committee for the Transport Department. I do not want to speak longer about it. I only say that ways and means must be found out to prevent leakage from that department.

I am glad that Government have appointed another Board to advise the P. W. D. I am grateful to Government because they have observed in letter and spirit the rules of the Advisory Board in so far as matters relating to communications and others contained in the G. O. Government have to be congratulated because there are not so many regional complaints with regard to communications his year as in previous years.

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Mr. M. Govindan: Sir, I rise to make a few observations regarding the budgetary provision for the uplift of the backward communities. There is a very short paragraph about it in the Financial Secretary's speech. Paragraph 23 deals with that subject. I used generally to complain about the brevity of this paragraph. But this particular paragraph is the briefest of all. There is a little more provision made this year than the previous years for the uplift of the backward classes. Instead of Rs. 34,000 it is Rs. 42,500 this year. I submit that this is totally inadequate to meet the requirements of uplift work. Looking into the details in the preliminary edition of the Budget I find that a considerable portion of the amount is earmarked for the purpose of the Enadimangalam Settlement. That comes to Rs. 28,500. Then the balance will be only about Rs. 13,000. For amelioration work in north and central Travancore a sum of about Rs. 25,752 was budgeted last year and only Rs. 5,000 has been spent. My friend Mr. Kuruvilla was complaining that some of the Departmental Heads were not spending amounts sanctioned for nation-building activities. But the disparity here is much more than what my friend was complaining. Instead of Rs. 25,000 the expenditure comes to only Rs. 5,000. For the work of amelioration, this Rs. 25,000 could well have been spent. But it is gratifying to find that Rs. 28,000 has been provided this year also.

Mr. T. W. U. Park: May I point out that the amount is Rs. 25,000. Probably the figure 2 might have been omitted in the copy of the Budget supplied to the member.

Mr. M. Govindan: I thank the member for the correction

Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan: May I invite the attention of the member to the fact that the allotment for 1116 is about Rs. 5,000 more than for 1115?

Mr. M. Govindan: That was what I first said. The allotment for 1116 is only Rs. 5,000 more. My complaint is that. For the uplift work amongst 8 lakhs of people, the sum allotted is only Rs. 42,500.

Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan: The honourable member does not appear to be aware that this amount is over and above the amount spent under the Education Department, the Land Revenue Department and other departments for safeguarding the interests of the backward communities so that the whole contribution of Government comes to nearly Rs. 2 lakhs.

Mr. M. Govindan: I am not unaware of that fact. When I complain about the inadequacy of the provision it is pointed out by my friend that the other provisions should also be taken into account. My complaint is that all those provisions should have been

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put under this head so as to avoid mistakes. I may specifically refer to the provision that is made in respect of the Protector's Department under Education. Even after putting all these together, the amount does not come up to the level of any of the neighbouring States. A Rupee per head of population is budgeted elsewhere. Here we are budgeting less than half a rupee. It may come to 4 annas per head. There is a department maintained at the cost of nearly ten thousand Rupees. I am speaking subject to correction, because it is linked up with the provision for the Sri Chitra Harijan Home. For administering Rs. 41,000 minus Rs. 10,000, *i.e.* Rs. 31,000 this top-heavy system is maintained. I am not complaining of the pay of the officers working in that department. On the other hand they must be paid more. The fact is that the allotment is totally inadequate. I really appreciate the good work done by the Government servants employed in that Department. My complaint is that the Protector of the Backward Communities must be a person in the status of a head of a Department. There is no particular point in placing him under the University particularly because the University is concerned with education after the school-final class. The number of backward class pupils studying in those high classes will not be more than 20 or 25 throughout the State. The large majority of those boys are studying in the high school classes of the State. I have no complaint about the absence of sympathy by the present Pro-Vice-Chancellor. If he can have jurisdiction over the whole affair instead of asking the Director of Public Instruction to deal with the high school classes it is well and good. The whole thing may be pooled together.

President: Is not your department working in contact with all other departments in regard to the activities connected with the backward classes, Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan?

Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan: Yes, Sir, there is an Advisory Board of which the Land Revenue Commissioner, the Protector of Backward Communities, and the Director of Public Instruction are all members and we are working in close collaboration.

Mr. M. Govindan: That fact also is known to me. I happen to be a member of that Advisory Board. I am not in a very complaining mood. I do plead for more sympathy. There is a particular reason for that. This is the season when books have to be purchased for those boys. There is absolutely no provision for the Protector or the Pro-Vice-Chancellor to help them with except the Rs. 5,000, which I am told, will be required for paying the Government rent. Educational help has to be given for the studies in the higher classes also. Every boy requires from 5 to 10 rupees' worth of books and it is poor coolies who have no money

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who send their children for studies. We sometimes have to give money from our pockets and yet many of them will have to leave the schools. Year before the last about Rs. 5,000 was spent by the Government on this account and we are very thankful for it. That was well appreciated and it helped a larger number of boys to come for study. That provision was not made last year. The Protector of Backward Communities had called for a list of deserving candidates to whom books may be supplied. That gave great hopes and a large number of boys and girls from amongst the Pulayas, Parayas and other classes came to attend the schools. But in the end the difficulty arose because there was no budgetary provision. I believe that in a complaint to the Head of the Administration I pointed out that difficulty.

Mr. T. K. Kitten : പുലയർ എന്നും പറയർ എന്നും ഇവിടെ പറഞ്ഞു. സാമ്പവർ എന്നും ചേരമർ എന്നുമുള്ള പേരുകളിലാണ് അവരെ അറിയുന്നത്. ആ നിലക്ക് പുലയർ എന്നും പറയരെന്നും മറും പറയുന്നത് അവക്ക് ആക്ഷേപകരമല്ലേ?

Mr. M. Govindan : I believe Sir, that my friend is not serious.

Mr. T. K. Kitten : I am in full seriousness, Sir. ദയവു ചെയ്ത് മലയാളത്തിൽ പറയണം.

President : The honourable member is requested to speak in Malayalam.

Mr. M. Govindan : പുലയരുടെയിടയിൽ ആ പേരുപറയുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് എന്തബദ്ധമാണ് വന്നിരിക്കുന്നതെന്നറിഞ്ഞാൽകൊള്ളാം. പുലയരിൽ കുറെ പേർ അവരുടെ പേരുമാറി ചേരമർ എന്നാക്കിയെങ്കിലും ബാക്കിയുള്ളവർ ഇന്നും പുലയരായിത്തന്നെ നിൽക്കുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ അങ്ങനെ ഉപയോഗിച്ചു എന്നേയുള്ളൂ.

Sir, I was saying this fact as a complaint. But I hope that the honourable member the Pro-Vice-Chancellor would not seriously take it and reject the help that he is thinking of giving. I only wanted to remind him of this just now as I may not be able to see him for this purpose again because both of us are very busy even outside this House.

Sir, now with regard to the saving that has been effected in the Education Department. Sir, when I pressed for compulsory education to be taken up at least by the Municipalities it was suggested that all endeavours will be made to encourage education among the backward communities. The present Director of Education

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who is one of the most efficient officers of the State is somewhat parsimonious in regard to this item of expenditure. If on the ground of inefficiency in conducting a school, a school is not recognised there is no quarrel about that. But if on the ground that it was only started last year a recognition to a school was withheld this year it is something worth quarreling at. Sir, by this I may say that the department is not discharging its duties which it undertook to perform during the reign of Maharani Parvathi Bai.

President : Order. Order. I find that there are 16 other honourable members who wish to speak. If the honourable members have no objection, I will give not more than 10 minutes to each.

Mr. Kalloor Narayana Pillai : സർ, യൂറോപ്പിൽ നടന്നു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന സമരവും ഇന്നു് ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ പൊതുവേ ബാധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനവും കൊണ്ടു ജനങ്ങൾ വിഷമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഈയവസരത്തിൽ വ്യവസായവകുപ്പിനെ, അതായതു് ഡവലപ്പുമെൻറുവകുപ്പിനെ അവഗണിക്കാതെയും ചിലവു് വരവിൽ അധികമാകാതെയും ഒരു ബഡ്ജററ് അവതരിപ്പിക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചതിൽ ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറിയെ ഞാൻ അഭിനന്ദിക്കുന്നു. വെളിയിലുള്ള വിദ്വാംസകന്മാരും വിപ്ലവകാരികളുമായ ആളുകളുടെ ഉപദേശത്തിനും പ്രചരണത്തിനും വഴിപ്പെടാതെയും രാഷ്ട്രീയസംഘടനകളുടെ നിയന്ത്രണത്തിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടാതെയും ഈ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ള ജനങ്ങൾ ഇരിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു. അതിനെ ഞാനും പൂർണ്ണമായി അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ വെളിയിൽ നിന്നും തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേക്കു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ ഇറക്കുമതി ചെയ്യുന്ന ഒരു നയത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണു് എനിക്കു ആക്ഷേപമുള്ളതു്. വെളിയിലുള്ള രാഷ്ട്രീയസംഘടനകളുടെയും നേതാക്കന്മാരുടേയും പ്രചരണജോലികളും നിയന്ത്രണങ്ങളും തടഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥിതിക്കു് വെളിയിൽ നിന്നുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ പ്രവാഹവും ഒഴിച്ചുവക്കുന്നതു് ആ തത്വത്തിനനുസരണമായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണു് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ നിയമിക്കുന്നതു വിദഗ്ദ്ധന്മാരായ ഏതാനും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ ഇവിടെ ആവശ്യമുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടും തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ള ആളുകൾക്കു പരിശീലനം നൽകുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടിയുമാണെന്നു പറയാറുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ ഇവിടത്തുകാരുടെ പരിശീലനം പൂർത്തിയാകുന്നില്ലെന്നുമാത്രമല്ല ഇങ്ങനെ ഇറക്കുമതിചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ

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[Mr. Kalloor Narayana Pillai.]

കാലാവധി നീട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുകയും ക്രമേണ ചെയ്യുന്നതായിട്ടാണു കാണുന്നത്. അതുകൊണ്ടു വെളിയിൽനിന്നുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ഇറക്കുമതി നിറുത്തണമെന്നുള്ളതാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

രണ്ടാമതായി പറയാനുള്ളതു് നമ്മുടെ പെൻഷൻതുക ക്രമാതീതമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നുവെന്നുള്ളതിനെക്കുറിച്ചാണ്. അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ, എന്തെങ്കിലും ഒരു നിർദ്ദേശം മെമ്പറന്മാരിൽ നിന്നും ലഭിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം പര്യാലോചിക്കുന്നതാണെന്നും പ്രസ്താവിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. എന്നാൽ കായികശക്തിയുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്ക് അവരുടെജോലി തുടർന്നുകൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനുള്ള പ്രാപ്തിയുണ്ടെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നപക്ഷം അറുപതാമത്തെ വയസ്സുവരെ ഉദ്യോഗം തുടരുന്നതിനു അവരെ അനുവദിക്കണമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail : പിന്നീടും ശക്തിയുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ?

Mr Kalloor Narayana Pillai : കായികശക്തിയുള്ളിടത്തോളം.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan (*Nominated*) : കാര്യക്ഷമതക്കു കൊള്ളാത്ത ഒരുദ്യോഗസ്ഥനായാലോ?

Mr. Kalloor Narayana Pillai: : കാര്യക്ഷമതയില്ലാത്ത ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ അമ്പത്തിയഞ്ചു വയസ്സുകഴിയുന്നതുവരെത്തന്നെയും ഉദ്യോഗത്തിലിരിക്കുമെന്ന് എനിക്കു വിശ്വാസമില്ല.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail :പെൻഷൻപറ്റിയഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ കായികശക്തിയുള്ളവരുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അവരെ തിരിയെ വിളിച്ചു ഉദ്യോഗം കൊടുക്കാമൊ?

Mr. Kalloor Narayana Pillai : ഇന്ന് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ഭരണക്രമം നയിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുപോകുന്ന ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾക്കും, ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറിഅവർകൾക്കും ശരിയായ കായികശക്തിയും ശേഷിയും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നതു പോലെ അതേനിലയിൽ തന്നെ കായികശക്തിയും കാര്യക്ഷമതയുമുള്ളവരുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അവർക്കും കൊടുക്കാമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

അതുപോലെതന്നെ ഇപ്പോൾ പബ്ലിക്കുസർവീസ് കമ്മീഷണരുടെ പ്രവർത്തനം തുടർന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന കാലത്തോളം 60 വയസ്സു പൂർത്തിയാകുന്നതിനു മുൻപ് എല്ലാപേർക്കും സർവീസിൽ പ്രവേശനം

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ലഭിക്കുമെന്നും വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. അധികവും പ്രായാധിക്യംകൊണ്ട് ഉദ്യോഗത്തിനവകാശികളല്ലാതെയും ആയിത്തീരുന്നു. അതിനാൽ നല്ല വയസ്സുവരെ സർവീസിൽ പ്രവേശനം അനുവദിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ജൂഡീഷ്യൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ നല്ല വയസ്സായ ഒരാളെ ബാറിൽ നിന്നും മുൻസിഫായി നിയമിക്കാമെന്നുവരികിൽ ഒരു ക്ലാക്കായിട്ട് നല്ല വയസ്സുള്ള ഒരാളെ നിയമിക്കുന്നതിനു എന്താണ് വിഷമമെന്നറിയുന്നില്ല. ഇരുപതും ഇരുപത്തൊന്നും വയസ്സ് തികഞ്ഞ ചെറുപ്പക്കാരെ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളിൽ നിയമിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു പല കുറവുകളും നേരിടുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു എന്റെ അനുഭവത്തിൽ തന്നെ അറിയാനിടയായിട്ടുണ്ട്. നല്ല വയസ്സാകുമ്പോൾ വേണ്ട പരീക്ഷായോഗ്യതയും പരിപക്വബുദ്ധിയും ലോകപരിചയവും മറും ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. അപ്രകാരമായാൽ അറുപതാമത്തെ വയസ്സാകുമ്പോൾ പെൻഷൻകൊടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്യാം. അതിനാൽ അറുപതാമത്തെ വയസുവരെ കാര്യക്ഷമതയും കായികശക്തിയുമുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ സർവീസിൽ വച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു പെൻഷന്റെ തുക ലഘൂകരിക്കാമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail: ഐ. സി. എസ്. പാസാകുന്നതിനു എത്രാമത്തെവയസ്സിൽ സാധിക്കും?

Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai: : അങ്ങനെ ഒരു പരീക്ഷ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലില്ലല്ലോ.

ഇനി എനിക്കു സംസാരിക്കുവാനുള്ളതു് അവശസമുദായങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണു. വിശ്വവിഖ്യാതമായ ക്ഷേത്രപ്രവേശനവിളംബരത്തിനുശേഷം തിരുവിതാംകൂർഗവണ്മെൻറ് അവശസമുദായങ്ങളെ വേണ്ട വിധത്തിൽ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനു ശ്രമിച്ചുവരുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ അവശസമുദായസംരക്ഷണവകുപ്പിന്റെ റിപ്പോർട്ടുകൊണ്ടു കാണുന്നതു് അവർക്കു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ പലസ്ഥലങ്ങളിലായി ഏഴു കാളനികൾ സ്ഥാപിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെ കാളനികളിൽ താമസിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് അവർ ഭൂസ്വത്തുടമസ്ഥന്മാരാകുന്നില്ല. പുലയർ പറയർ തുടങ്ങിയ അവശസമുദായക്കാർക്കായി അയ്യങ്കാളി മുമുന്നോസെൻറു വീതമെങ്കിലും അവരുടെ കുടിപാർപ്പു് സ്ഥലങ്ങൾക്കടുത്തു കാണുന്ന പുറമ്പോക്കു സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും പതിച്ചു കൊടുക്കണം. പരിഷ്കൃതസമുദായങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ നിന്നും അവരെ മാറ്റി, കോളനി മുതലായ റിസർവിനോടു് ചേർത്തു് സൗകര്യമുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ മാറിതാമസിപ്പിച്ചതുകൊണ്ടുമാത്രമായില്ല. സാധാരണയായി മിക്കസ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും കാണാ

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വുന്ന പുറമ്പോക്കുകൾ അവശസമുദായങ്ങൾക്കായി പതിച്ചു കൊടുക്കണം.

ഇനി എനിക്കു പ്രസ്താവിക്കാനുള്ളതു് നമ്മുടെ സാമ്പത്തികകാര്യങ്ങളിൽ പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധപതിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതാണു്. ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ ഇവിടെ പൊതുവേ കാണുന്ന ഏറ്റവും പരിതാപകരമായ അവസ്ഥയെ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനു പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രമിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. നെല്ലും മരച്ചീനിയുമാണു് ഇവിടത്തെ പ്രധാനമായ ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങൾ. ഇവ രണ്ടും ഇപ്പോൾ ആഹാരത്തിനു കിട്ടുന്നില്ല. മരച്ചീനിയില, കാട്ടിൽ നിൽക്കുന്ന തകരയുടെ ഇല, ഇവയാണു വെള്ളമൊഴിച്ചു് വേകിച്ചു് ഉപ്പും ചേർത്തു് മുളകും ചതച്ചിട്ടു സാധുക്കൾ ആഹാരം കഴിക്കുന്നതു്. ഈയിടെ ഒരു പോലീസ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരുടെ അടുക്കൽ ഒരാൾ ഒരു ഹർജി കൊടുത്തു. അയാളുടെ ഒരേക്കർ പുരയിടത്തിലുള്ള മരച്ചീനി കൃഷിയിൽ തണ്ടുമാത്രമേ നിൽക്കുന്നുള്ളു. ഇലയൊന്നും കാണുന്നില്ല മോഷ്ടിച്ചു കൊണ്ടു പോയിരിക്കുന്നു. എന്നായിരുന്നു ഹർജി. ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ കാൻസ്റ്റബിൾമാരെ, മോഷണം നടത്തുന്ന ആളുകളെ പിടിച്ചു കൊണ്ടുവരാൻ ഏർപ്പാടുചെയ്തു. അപ്പോൾ അവർ നാലു സ്ത്രീകളെ മുമ്മൂന്നുകുഞ്ഞുങ്ങളുമായിട്ടാണു് കൊണ്ടുവന്നതു്. വേറെ ആഹാരത്തിനു യാതൊരു നിവൃത്തിയുമില്ലാത്തതിനാൽ മരച്ചീനിയില ഞങ്ങൾ മോഷ്ടിച്ചു തിന്നു പോയതാണു് എന്നു് അവർ ഏറ്റുപറഞ്ഞു. അവിടത്തെ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ ഒരു ദയാലുവാണു്. മോഷ്ടാക്കളിലും മറ്റും ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാർ ദയവുകാണിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലല്ലോ. അതിനാൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ പേരുപറയുവാൻ വിഷമമുണ്ടു്. അദ്ദേഹം രണ്ടു പറ അരി വരുത്തി ഓരോ സ്ത്രീക്കും. അയ്യഞ്ചിടങ്ഴി അരി വീതം കൊടുത്തു് പറഞ്ഞയച്ചു. അതുപോലെ തന്നെ ഒരു ഈഴവസ്ത്രീ മരച്ചീനിയില വെള്ളത്തിലിട്ടു പുഴുങ്ങിതിന്നാൻ തുടങ്ങിയപ്പോൾ ഉപ്പില്ലാത്തതിനാൽ ഉപ്പുംകൂട്ടിച്ചേർത്തു് ഭക്ഷിക്കാമെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചു് ഉപ്പിനായിപോയി. കുട്ടി അതു് കോരി തിന്നു. തള്ള വന്നപ്പോൾ കുട്ടിക്കു് ബോധമില്ല, കുറെ കഴിഞ്ഞു കുട്ടി മരിച്ചുപോയി. ചേത്തല മുതലായ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ പിണ്ണാക്കു് കഞ്ഞി വെള്ളത്തിലിട്ടു് കുതിർത്തു് തിന്നുന്നു. ദിവാൻജിഅവർകളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഈ നാട്ടിലുള്ള ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് അത്യധികമായ ബഹുമാനം ഉണ്ടെന്നുമാത്രമല്ല, അദ്ദേഹം ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഒരു അ

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രാധനാമൂർത്തിയുമാണ്. അതിനാൽ ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ പോഷക്കാരന്മാരും തഫശീൽദാരന്മാരും ആയി ഈ നാട്ടിന്റെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിലും സഞ്ചരിച്ച് ഓരോ സമുദായത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട ആളുകളേയും വരുത്തി സ്ഥിതി ഗതികൾ ചോദിച്ച് മനസിലാക്കി തിരിയെ പോയാൽ മാത്രം മതി. അതുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് രക്ഷയുണ്ടാകുമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ പൂർണ്ണമായ വിശ്വാസം.

പിന്നീട് ഒന്നു പ്രസ്താവിക്കുവാനുള്ളതു ഇവിടത്തെ ദായക്രമം സംബന്ധിച്ചാണ്. വസ്തുക്കളെല്ലാം തുണ്ടുതുണ്ടായി ഭാഗിച്ച് അഞ്ചും പത്തും സെൻറുകളായി തിരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിനാൽ കൃഷിക്കും മറ്റും യാതൊരു സൗകര്യവുമില്ലാതെ തീർന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതും സാമ്പത്തികാവശ്യത്തിനു കാരണമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. അതിനാൽ തുണ്ടുതുണ്ടായ വസ്തുക്കളെല്ലാം ഒന്നിച്ചു ചേർത്തു ധനശാസ്ത്രമനുസരിച്ചു കൃഷിക്കു സൗകര്യമുണ്ടാക്കാൻ ഒരു നിയമം നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തിയാൽകൊള്ളാമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. മതസംബന്ധമായോ സാമുദായികമായോ ഉള്ള ആചാരത്തിന്മേൽ വസ്തുക്കൾ തുണ്ടുതുണ്ടാക്കരുതു്.

ശ്രീ നാരായണഗുരുസ്വാമികളുടെ സമാധിദിനമായ കന്നി 8-ാം തീയതി ഹിന്ദുക്കൾക്കു ഒരു പൊതു ഒഴിവുദിവസമായി അനുവദിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അതു വേണ്ടതുതന്നെ. എന്നാൽ നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിന്റെ പുരോഗതിക്കും ഈ നിയമസഭയുടെ ആവിർഭാവത്തിനു കാരണഭൂതനായ ശ്രീമൂലം തിരുനാൾ പൊന്നുതമ്പുരാൻ തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടു ൻ൯ കർക്കടകമാസത്തിൽ ചോതിനക്ഷത്രത്തിലാണു ദിവംഗതനായതു്. ആ തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടു്, ഇപ്പോൾ വഞ്ചിരാജവംശത്തിനും കാരണഭൂതരായി പരിലസിച്ചരുളുന്ന മഹാറാണി തിരുമേനിമാരെ അനുഗ്രഹിച്ചു ആ തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടുനാടുനീങ്ങിയ ദിവസമായ കർക്കടകമാസത്തിലെ ചോതി നക്ഷത്ര ദിവസം വാർഷികശ്രാർദ്ധം നടത്തേണ്ട ഒരു ദിവസമാകയാൽ അതു ഒരു പബ്ലിക്കു ഒഴിവുദിവസമായി അനുവദിക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ആലോചനയിൽകൊണ്ടുവരണമെന്നു് ഞാൻ ആശിക്കുന്നു.

Mr. T. K. Kittan : സർ, തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മ, യുദ്ധം, ക്ഷാമം എന്ന മൂന്നു ശത്രുക്കളോടുവേണം നാം ഇവിടെ എതിരിടേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഫ്രഞ്ചുകാരുടെ വരവു ചെലവു കണക്കു പരിശോധിച്ചു നോക്കിയാൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തു ഇതിനു മുൻപു ഒരിക്കലും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ലാത്ത വലിയ

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[Mr. T. K. Kettan.]

മുതലെടുപ്പ് വരുമെന്ന് പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്നു എന്നുകാണാം. അതു ൨,൫൭,൪൦,൨൦൦ രൂപയാണ്. ഈ സംഖ്യ ഫാക്ടറിക്കാരുടെ സ്റ്റാറ്റിസ്റ്റിക്സ് രൂപ കൂട്ടുതലാണ്. ഈ തുക ജനങ്ങളുടെ മേൽ വിശേഷാൽ നികുതികളൊന്നും ചുമത്താതെയാണ് കിട്ടുമെന്നു കാണിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്. അതു വളരെ സന്തോഷം തന്നെ. ഭൂനികുതി ഇനത്തിൽ ഫാക്ടറിയിൽ നാല്പത്തി രണ്ടര ലക്ഷം രൂപ മുതലെടുപ്പുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു കാണിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഫാക്ടറിയിൽ ഈ ഇനത്തിലുള്ള വരവ് നാല് ലക്ഷം രൂപ മാത്രമാണ്. ഫാക്ടറിയിലെ കണക്ക് ഇതുവരെ ശരിയായിട്ടില്ല. മുപ്പത്തിനാലു ലക്ഷത്തിൽ നിന്നും നാല്പത്തിരണ്ടര ലക്ഷമായിട്ടാണ് വർദ്ധനവു കാണിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്. ആദായനികുതി ഇനത്തിൽ കഴിഞ്ഞ ആണ്ടത്തെക്കാൾ മൂന്നു ലക്ഷം രൂപ കൂടുതൽ വരുമെന്നു കണക്കാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നു. യുദ്ധംകൊണ്ടും ക്ഷാമംകൊണ്ടും ശരിക്കു കച്ചവടം നടക്കാത്ത ഇക്കാലത്തു് എങ്ങിനെയാണ് മൂന്നു ലക്ഷം രൂപ വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നത്? കിട്ടുമെങ്കിൽ അതു നല്ലതുതന്നെ. കസ്റ്റംസ് ഇനത്തിൽ കഴിഞ്ഞയാണ്ടത്തെക്കാൾ നാലു ലക്ഷം രൂപ കൂടുതൽ മുതലെടുപ്പ് വരുമെന്നു് എഴുതിയിരിക്കുന്നു. തുറമുഖവരുമാനത്തിന്റെ ആദായപ്പീതം നമുക്കു കിട്ടാനുള്ളതു മുൻകൂട്ടി വരുവെക്കുവാൻ ഒരു സൌകര്യം ലഭിച്ചതുകൊണ്ടു പൊന്തിക്കാണുന്ന ഒരു സംഖ്യയാണത്. പിന്നീടുള്ള വരവിനങ്ങളിൽ ,,കറൻസിയും മിന്റും'' ഇനത്തിൽ ൨,൫൪,൫൦൦ രൂപയും ''കാമ്മേർസ്യൽ ടാൻസ്പോർട്ട്'' എന്ന ഇനത്തിൽ ൫,൨൪,൯൦൦ രൂപയും ക്ലേ ആൻഡ് പോഴ്സിലിയൻ ഇനത്തിൽ ൫,൪൦,൦൦൦ രൂപയും മുതലെടുപ്പു കണക്കാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഒടുവിൽ പറഞ്ഞ മൂന്നിനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നുമുള്ള വരവ് വന്ന കണ്ടതിനുശേഷമെ കണക്കാക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളൂ. ഈ ഇനങ്ങളിൽ എല്ലാംകൂടി ഉള്ള സംഖ്യ പിരിഞ്ഞു കിട്ടിയാൽ രണ്ടു കോടി എൺപത്തഞ്ചു ലക്ഷം രൂപാ വരുമാനമുണ്ടാകുമെന്നാണ് കണക്കാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നത്.

ഇനി ചെലവ് ഇനത്തെപ്പറ്റി നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഫാക്ടറിയിൽ ൨,൩൫,൨൯൦ രൂപ ചെലവുണ്ടാകുമെന്നാണ് കണക്കാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നത്. അതിൽ ശമ്പളം, സഞ്ചാരപ്പടി, പെൻഷൻ എന്നീ ഇനങ്ങൾക്ക് ൫,൨൦,൦൦,൦൦൦ രൂപ ചെലവുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു കാണിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇനി താഴെപ്പറയുന്ന ഏഴു ഇനങ്ങളായ പലിശ, കൊട്ടാരം, ദേവസ്വം, മിസലേനിയസ് പൊളിറ്റിക്കൽ ഏക്സപൻഡിച്ചർ, പട്ടാളം, കപ്പം, മിസലേനിയസ് ഇവയെല്ലാംകൂടി

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വ൨,൩൯,൪൦൦ രൂപയാണ് ചെലവ്. ഇതും മുൻപറഞ്ഞ ഒരു കോടി ഇരുപതു ലക്ഷവുംകൂടി രണ്ടുകോടി രണ്ടു ലക്ഷത്തിഎഴുപത്തൊൻപതിനായിരത്തിനാന്നൂറ് രൂപയും പൊതു വിമർശനത്തിനു വിധേയമാക്കാതെ വിട്ടാൽ ബാക്കി ൩൯,൯൯,൪൦൦ രൂപയാണ് ഉള്ളതു. ചെലവിനങ്ങളും എല്ലാം ഇവിടെ വിവരമായി എഴുതിയിരിക്കുന്നു. കണക്കു നോക്കിയതിൽ വിശേഷാൽ നിരൂപണത്തിനു വഴികാണുന്നില്ല.

ഈ രാജ്യത്തു് സക്കാർ ജീവനക്കാർ എന്നു പറഞ്ഞു് ഒരു വലിയ വിഭാഗം, അതായതു് പതിനയ്യായിരത്തിൽപരം ആളുകൾ ഇപ്പോൾ ജീവനക്കാരായി ഉണ്ടു്. അവർ ൯൯൯ പതും പത്തും പതിനൊന്നും രൂപ ശമ്പളം വാങ്ങിക്കുന്നവരാണു്. സക്കാർ ജീവനക്കാരുടെ ഏറവും കുറഞ്ഞ ശമ്പളം ൧൫ രൂപയായിരിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഇതിനു മുൻപു് പല പ്രാവശ്യവും പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതിലേക്കു് ബഡ്ജറിൽ യാതൊരു ഏർപ്പാടും ചെയ്തു കാണുന്നില്ല. ഈയാണ്ടിൽ എട്ടു ലക്ഷം രൂപയുടെ മിച്ചം ഉള്ള ഒരു ബഡ്ജറായതുകൊണ്ടു് താഴ്ന്ന ശമ്പളക്കാർക്കു് എന്തെങ്കിലും കൂട്ടിക്കൊടുക്കുന്ന സംഗതി ഗവണ്മെൻറു് ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. വരവു ചെലവുകളുടെ കണക്കു് ഇങ്ങനെയായി. ഇനി കടധനപ്പട്ടികയുടെ സംഗതി എങ്ങിനെയെന്നു നോക്കാം. ആ കണക്കു പരിശോധിച്ചുനോക്കിയിട്ടു് എനിക്കു തീരെ മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. അസ്സസ്റ്റ് എന്നു പറയുന്നതു് നമ്മുടെ ധനം, അതായതു് വസ്തുവകകളായിട്ടും പ്രമാണങ്ങളായും രൊക്കമായിട്ടും നമുക്കുള്ളതു് എന്നാണു ഞാൻ മനസ്സിലാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നതു്. അതിൽ "ബുള്ളിയൻ അക്കൌണ്ടു്" എന്ന ഇനത്തിൽ വ,൪൦൦ രൂപായുടെ വക മാത്രമെ ൧൧൧൫-ൽ കൈവശമുണ്ടായിരുന്നുള്ളൂ. ൧൧൧൬-ൽ അതു ൪൦൯,൪൦൭൦ രൂപയായിത്തീരുമെന്നു് എഴുതിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ സംഖ്യയൊ അതു വലയ്ക്കുള്ള സാധനമൊ ഈ കണക്കിൽ എങ്ങിനെ വന്നുകൂടി എന്നു അറിയേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇനി ലൈബിലിറ്റീസു് അതായതു് കൊടുത്തുതീർക്കേണ്ടും സംഖ്യ, അതു് ചെലവിനം ആണെങ്കിൽ അതിൽ ഒരു (ന്യൂനം) മൈനസ്കൂടി ഇട്ടാൽ എന്തായിത്തീരും, ചെലവിൽ ചെലവാണോ? ഞാൻ ഇതു് പറയുന്നതു് കണക്കു മനസ്സിലാകാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണു്. അതെങ്കിലും അതു് ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുത്തി തന്നാൽ കൊള്ളാം.

സിങ്കിംഗ് ഫണ്ടു് കഴിഞ്ഞു് ആറാമതുവരിയിൽ എഴുതിയിരിക്കുന്നതു് സേവിംഗ്സ് ബാങ്ക് ഡിപ്പോസിറ്റു് എന്നാണു്. ഈ സംഖ്യ എനിക്കു വായിക്കാൻ അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. മൂന്നാം കാളം നോക്കുക.

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President: Where? Under what head? What is the honourable member's point about the Savings Bank Deposit?

Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan: Sir, he says that he cannot read the figure.

President : Oh ! It is two crores and forty-eight lakhs.

Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan: I think that in his copy the figure is not given.

Mr. T. K. Kittan: It is not in my book. (*Laughter*) ഇത് മിക്ക പുസ്തകങ്ങളിലും കാണുന്നില്ല. അച്ചടിപ്പിശകാണെങ്കിൽ അത് നേരത്തെ പറയണം. രണ്ടുകോടിയിൽ ചിലപ്പോൾ രൂപയുടെ കായ്മാണ്. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ തെറ്റു വരുത്തിയതിനു ഉത്തരവാദി ആരാണ്? ഇതാ! ഈ കണക്കുകൾ ശരിപ്പെടുത്തി ഒന്നു നോക്കുവാൻ ഞാൻ രണ്ടു ഷീറ്റു കടലാസു ചെലവാക്കി. അങ്ങിനെ കണക്കു കൂട്ടിനോക്കിയതിൽ എട്ടു ലക്ഷം രൂപയുടെ കുറവാണ് വന്നിട്ടുള്ളത്.

President: I am sorry that the honourable member has been put to needless trouble on account of the printer's devil. Such diabolical mistakes sometimes are very embarrassing.

Mr. S. Sundararajan: The figure '8' is indistinct in that column.

Mr. T. K. Kittan: ൨൦൦൦-ാമാണ്ടു് അവസാനത്തിൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ സ്വത്തു് അഞ്ചരകോടിരൂപയായിരിക്കുമെന്നു കാണുന്നു. ൨൦൨൦ന്നു അവസാനത്തിൽ അതു് മൂന്നരക്കോടിയായി കുറയുമെന്നും കാണുന്നു. ഇതുമാണു് എനിക്കു ബഡ്ജറ്റു കണക്കുകളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്.

തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മനിമിത്തമുള്ള ക്ഷാമപരിഹാരത്തിനായി അഞ്ചുലക്ഷംരൂപായും, രാജ്യത്തു സമാധാനം പാലിക്കുന്നതിനും യുദ്ധകാര്യത്തിൽ മേല്ക്കോയ്മയെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതിനുംകൂടി പത്തുലക്ഷം രൂപായും ചിലവിനത്തിൽകൊള്ളിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതിൽ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ അനുമോദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar : Sir, I congratulate the Financial Secretary for placing a Budget which shows a surplus. But I too am afraid that the Financial Secretary has been too optimistic in arriving at the figures under Income-tax. Sir, hitherto, until the year 1115, we were getting our anticipated income. But that is not the case with the year 1116. Now, as honourable members have pointed out, we are in the midst of labour unrest. We are in the midst of suffering caused by the want of work

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in the factories. We are in the midst of war and also in the midst of an agitation for debt-relief, so much so, I do not understand how the Financial Secretary has anticipated an increased amount under Income-tax. I am sure, if we are to continue in this position, we would not be able to get anything worth mentioning under that head. All the business of Travancore have failed ; all the factories have been closed and shipping is not being carried on properly. Under such circumstances, I do not understand wherefrom the Financial Secretary is going to derive the figure specified under Income-tax. The Debt Relief legislation is going to cause great harm to the creditor class and as such the money-lending class will not be able to give anything by way of Income-tax. So that goes away.

Another big income which the Financial Secretary expects is from mineral sources. When we are already in difficulties of finding out ways and means of sending our articles by sea I ask how are we going to derive any substantial amount by way of customs duty or from minerals.

President : The honourable member will be relieved to learn that mineral sands are generally exported at the instance of Great Britain, which wants them even now for purposes of war and therefore special shippings are provided.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar : Thank you, Sir, for the information. Similarly, other customs revenue are also bound to dwindle. Under such circumstances we cannot forecast the amounts that have been anticipated by the Financial Secretary. As I have pointed out the incomes are bound to go down. Hence our expenditure ought to be cut down wherever possible. I cannot positively say where we have to apply our axe. That Government will have to consider.

Another question I have to place before the Government is this. They have already set apart a very big amount for starting works to give relief to the unemployed labourers. Instead of concentrating their attention to places where a good amount of work has already been done by the P. W. D. it would be well if the amounts to be spent on that account are utilised in places which have not been attended to by Government hitherto. The work of constructing a road from Alleppey to Changanacherry is under contemplation. Well, Alleppey is a place where a large number of labourers are without work. The work is estimated to cost something like eleven and odd lakhs of rupees. A portion of the fund should be spent for the work in question. This will besides meeting an urgent demand give work for the unemployed labourers near Alleppey.

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Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: May I know from the member with reference to the road how much amount is provided for land acquisition?

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: I do not know. Altogether some eleven and odd lakhs of rupees was estimated for the whole work. That is all I know.

Similarly, during the flood season it has been brought to the notice of Government that floods every year are doing great harm in the water-locked areas of Ambalapuzha taluk. There was a proposal of constructing a spill way or something like that. I find that absolutely no provision is made towards that work in the budget. I feel too difficult to understand why no provision is made in the Budget to begin that work as early as possible. If any man who has a kind heart would only go to the water-locked areas during a flood season I am sure he will plead for us that the work should be taken at the earliest possible opportunity. Even this year we had floods. Ever so many houses collapsed and this is a very urgent piece of work which I believe will be taken up by Government at the earliest possible opportunity. I have nothing more to add.

Sahib Bahadur Haji Hassan Yacoob Sait (*Commerce & Industry, North*) അടുത്ത വർഷത്തെ മുതലെടുപ്പ് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ ചരിത്രത്തിൽ മുൻപൊരിക്കലും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ലാത്ത വിധത്തിൽ ഏറ്റവും ക്ലേശതരമായ അവസ്ഥയിലാണെന്നു കാണുന്നതു് നമുക്കെല്ലാവർക്കും സന്തോഷപ്രദവും അഹ്ലാദകരവും ആയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിനും പുറമെ ഇന്നു ലോകത്തു കാണുന്ന സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനം, കച്ചവടമാന്ദ്യം മുതലായതു് കൂടി ആലോചിച്ചു നോക്കുമ്പോൾ ക്ലേശതരമായ നികുതികൾ ചുമത്താതെ മിച്ചമുള്ള ഒരു ബഡ്ജറ്റ് തയ്യാറാക്കിയതിനു ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറിയെ അനുമോദിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം, പബ്ലിക്ക് വർക്ക്സ്, മെഡിക്കൽ, പബ്ലിക്ക് ഹെൽത്ത് മുതലായി പ്രാധാന്യമുള്ള സകല ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിലും, നമ്മുടെ ഗവൺമെൻറു മറ്റു രാജ്യങ്ങളെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൂട്ടൽ തുകകൾ ചിലവുചെയ്യുന്നു എന്നു കാണുന്നതു് നമുക്കെല്ലാവർക്കുംവളരെ അഭിമാനകരം ആയിരിക്കുന്നു

കുടിൽവ്യവസായം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനും പരിപുഷ്ടിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനും മറ്റും പതിനേഴായിരത്തിൽപരം രൂപ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കൊള്ളിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു് തീരെ കുറവാണെന്നു പറയാതെ ഇരിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഫാക്ടറികൾ അടയ്ക്കേണ്ടിവന്നതുമൂലം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ ദുരിതനിവാരണത്തിനായി അഞ്ചുലക്ഷം രൂപ നീക്കിവച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു വളരെ ഉചിതവും ആശ്വാസകരവും ആണ്. തിരുവി

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താംക്രിലുള്ള ധാതുദ്രവ്യങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ച വേണ്ട അന്വേഷണങ്ങളും നടത്തിയും പുതിയ ധനാഗമ മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ശ്രമം വളരെ സ്തുത്യർഹമാണ്. നമ്മുടെ വനവിഭവങ്ങളും, ഉല്പന്നങ്ങളും ഇവയെ വേണ്ട വിധത്തിൽ ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തി ഗവർമ്മെൻറിന്റെ മുതലെടുപ്പു വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനും മറ്റും ഉള്ള പ്രാരംഭസംരംഭങ്ങളും വളരെ അഭിനന്ദനീയംതന്നെ. വില്ലേജ് യൂണിയൻസുകളുടെ രൂപീകരണം, അവയിലെ വൈദ്യസഹായത്തിനുള്ള പദ്ധതികളും മുതലായവ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുന്നു എന്നു കാണുന്നതു് സന്തോഷാവഹമാണു്. കൂട്ടനാടു, ചേർത്തല, ഭ്രതപ്പാണ്ടി മുട്ടം മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ശുദ്ധജലവിതരണത്തിനുള്ള സാധ്യതകളെപ്പറ്റി അന്വേഷിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ആരംഭം സ്വാഗതാർഹമായിരിക്കുന്നു.

ഇവയുടെ വിജയകരമായി ഏതെല്ലാം വ്യവസായങ്ങളും നടത്തുന്നതിനു സാധിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഒരു വ്യവസായസർവ്വെ നടത്തേണ്ടതു് ഏറ്റവും അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നു് ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഒരു കർഷകരാജ്യമായ തിരുവിതാംക്രിൽ നമുക്കാവശ്യമുള്ള ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങളും ഇവിടെത്തന്നെ കൃഷിചെയ്യുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു്, നമ്മുടെ കൃഷി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു്, എന്തുതന്നെ ചിലവുചെയ്യേണ്ടിവന്നിരുന്നാലും കഴിയുന്ന വിധത്തിൽ ശ്രമിച്ചു സഫലമാക്കേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമാണു്.

ആദായനികുതിയുടെ വിഷയത്തിൽ, അയ്യായിരത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ സംഖ്യക്കു് ഇപ്പോൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്ന റേറിൽ കൂടുതൽ നികുതി ചുമത്തണമെന്നുള്ള നിർദ്ദേശം, ഇന്നത്തെ മഹായുദ്ധം നിമിത്തം ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്ന വാണിജ്യവ്യവസായഅധഃപതനം നിമിത്തം ആശാസ്യമായിരിക്കുന്നില്ല. കൂടാതെ നമ്മുടെ വ്യവച്ചു വ്യവസായ പദ്ധതികളും പൂർണ്ണവികാസത്തിൽ എത്തിച്ചേരുമ്പോൾ അവയിൽനിന്നും നല്ലവരുമാനം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതുമാണല്ലൊ?

Mr. C. N. Thuppan Namboodiri (*Travancore Jenmies*):സർ, ഇന്നത്തെ സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനം രാജ്യമൊട്ടുക്കു വന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ അതിലേക്കുള്ള പരിഹാരങ്ങളും കൂടി നിർദ്ദേശിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ബഡ്ജറു് ഏറെക്കുറെ അഭിനന്ദനാർഹം തന്നെയാണു. എന്നാൽ അതു പൂർണ്ണമായി അനുമോദിക്കത്തക്കതാണു് എന്നു പറയാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഗവണ്മെൻറിനായാലും മറേറതെങ്കിലും സ്ഥാപനത്തിനായാലും ഒരു ഏരപ്പാടിനെ പെട്ടെന്നു

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[Mr. C. N. Thuppan Namboodiri]

മാറാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്താൽ പല ദോഷങ്ങളും സംഭവിക്കും. ഇന്നത്തെ ക്ഷാമം രാജ്യത്തിൽ പൊതുവെ ബാധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു ഗവണ്മെൻറും അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതു വളരെ ആശ്വാസകരംതന്നെയാണ്. തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മമൂലം വളരെ വിഷമം വന്നിട്ടുള്ള തൊഴിലാളികൾക്കു ആശ്വാസം നൽകുന്ന സംഗതിയിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധ പതിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട് എന്നുള്ളതു് ആശ്വാസകരംതന്നെയാണ്. അതിലേക്കു നീക്കിവച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സംഖ്യ മതിയായി എന്നു പറയാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. എങ്കിലും പോരാതെ വരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ ഇനിയും അതിനു വേണ്ട പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കുമെന്നുള്ള വിശ്വാസം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ധാരാളമുണ്ട്. ഇനി ഇതിന്റെ വേറൊരു വശം നോക്കിയാൽ രസാവഹമായ ഒരു നിലയാണു കാണുന്നതു്. രാജ്യത്തിൽ പലവിധമായ പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങൾ വേണം, സഫലമായി തീരത്തക്ക പല പദ്ധതികൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കണം, എന്നെല്ലാം ജനങ്ങൾ ധാരാളമായി പറയും. അതനുസരിച്ചു് എന്തെങ്കിലും ഒരു പദ്ധതി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിക്കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ ഉടനെ അതു തെറ്റിപ്പോയി എന്നും പറയും. അതിലേക്കു് ഉദാഹരണം പറയാം. നമുക്കു് ഇവിടെ ക്ഷാമം നേരിടുമെന്നു മുൻകൂട്ടി അറിഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടു നമ്മുടെ ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ നമുക്കു് ആഹാരസാധനം മുട്ടാതിരിക്കത്തക്കവിധത്തിൽ അരി വരുത്തുന്നതിനു് ഏർപ്പാടു ചെയ്കയും ആ പ്രവൃത്തിയെപ്പറ്റി പലരും ശ്ലാഘിക്കയും ചെയ്തു. കുറെ കഴിഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ അതിൽ കുറെ നഷ്ടം സഹിക്കേണ്ടിവന്നു. ഉടനെ അതു തെറ്റിപ്പോയി, തെറ്റിപ്പോയി എന്നുപറഞ്ഞു് ആളുകൾ ക്ഷോഭമുണ്ടാക്കി. പരമാർത്ഥത്തിൽ ആ ഏർപ്പാടു ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ലായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ അരിയുടെ വില കുറയാതിരിക്കയും വിലക്രമേണ കൊടുത്തു വാങ്ങിക്കുന്നതിനു സാധുക്കൾക്കു സാധിക്കാതെ വരികയും ചെയ്യുമായിരുന്നു. ഈ സംഗതി മുൻകൂട്ടി കണ്ടറിഞ്ഞു പ്രവർത്തിച്ചതുനിമിത്തമാണു ഈ രാജ്യത്തിൽ പട്ടിണികൂടാതെ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഇങ്ങനെ, ഒരു പ്രസ്ഥാനം ആരംഭിക്കുമ്പോൾ അതു നല്ലതാണെന്നു അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുകയും അതിനുശേഷം ആക്ഷേപിക്കയും ചെയ്തുവരുന്ന ഒരു പതിവാണു ഇവിടെ കണ്ടുവരുന്നതു്. ഒരു പുതിയ പദ്ധതിയിൽ പല പ്രതിബന്ധങ്ങളും വന്നു ചേരുന്നതാണ്. ആ പ്രതിബന്ധങ്ങളെ വകവയ്ക്കാതെ മുന്നോട്ടു പോകുകയാണെങ്കിൽ, അതു ഉണ്മയിതന്നെ കലാശിക്കുന്നതാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് അങ്ങിനെ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള പദ്ധതികളിൽ പ്രത്യേകമായി അഭിനന്ദിക്കാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ക്ഷാമം വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്ന ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഉൾനാടുകളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം വലുതായ ഒരു

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ഉപകാരം ചെയ്യേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഗ്രാമങ്ങളിൽ പലവിധത്തിലുള്ള അക്രമപ്രവൃത്തികളും നടന്നുവരുന്നുണ്ട്. പൊലീസ് ആവക സംഗതികളിൽ ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ആ വിഷയത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതിനു പൊലീസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

ലാൻറ്റവന്യൂഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെപ്പറ്റി ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയാതിരിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ജന്മിമാരെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം കരം പതിപ്പു് എന്നൊരു ഏർപ്പാടു് ഇപ്പോൾ നടക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. ജന്മിമാരുടെ വസ്തുക്കൾ ഏതുരീതിയിലാണെന്നുള്ളതു നോക്കാം. കഴിഞ്ഞ സെറ്റിൽമെൻറു് സമയത്തു ആവക വസ്തുക്കൾക്കു കരം പതിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ല. ജന്മികുടിയാൻ റഗുലേഷനിൽ അതു പ്രത്യേകം ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടില്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ ഇന്ന തോതിൽ ഇന്നനിലയിൽ കരം പതിക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതിനു ഒരു ന്യായവുമില്ലാതെയാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ആഫീസിലിരിക്കുന്ന ക്ലാർക്കന്മാർ നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്നതനുസരിച്ചു കരം പതിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു കമ്മീഷണരുടെ അടുത്തു പോകുന്ന ഫയലുകൾ അതേമാതിരിയിൽ തന്നെ തിരിയെ വരുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ടു കരംപതിവുസംഗതിയിൽ പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

അതുപോലെതന്നെ ജന്മിക്കരത്തിൻെറ വിലത്തരക്കുറവിനുമുള്ള സ്ഥിതി. ജന്മിക്കരത്തിനു് ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി കൂടി രണ്ടു കൊല്ലത്തേക്കോ മറ്റൊ ഒരു വില നിർണ്ണയിക്കുന്ന പതിവാണു ഇന്നുള്ളതു്. എന്നാൽ ചില അവസരങ്ങളിൽ വലിയവ്യത്യാസം വരുന്നുണ്ടു്. ചിലപ്പോൾ അതു കുറഞ്ഞും കൂടിയും വരുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ജന്മിക്കും കുടിയാനും ഒരുപോലെ നഷ്ടമുണ്ടാകാനിടയുള്ളതിനാൽ ജന്മിക്കരത്തിനു ഒരു പ്രത്യേക നിരക്കു നിശ്ചയിക്കുയൊ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ മാക്സിമുനിരക്കു സ്വീകരിക്കുകയോ ചെയ്യണമെന്നാണു എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു.

ഇനി ആയുർവേദഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു എനിക്കു ഒരു സംഗതി പ്രസ്താവിക്കുവാനുണ്ടു്. ഞാൻ ഈ തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തു വന്ന ഉടനെതന്നെ ഒരു പ്രത്യേക ഇംഗ്ലീഷ്മരുന്നു വാങ്ങിക്കാനായി ഡാക്ടർ കുറിച്ചുതരികയും ഷാപ്പിൽ ചെന്നന്വേഷിച്ചപ്പോൾ ആ മരുന്നു് ഇപ്പോൾ കിട്ടുന്നില്ലെന്നും ഇനിയും കുറെക്കാലത്തേക്കു കിട്ടുകയില്ലെന്നും പറയുകയും ചെയ്തു. ഈ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ മെഡിക്കൽഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്കു നാം ചിലവാക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ ആയുർവേദഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്കു ലക്ഷത്തോളം തികയാത്ത ഒരു തുക മാത്രമേ ചിലവാക്കുന്നുള്ളു, പ്രായേണ നോക്കിയാൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ആയുർവേദചികിത്സയോടാണു അധികം അഭി

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[Mr. C. N. Thuppan Namboodiri.]

രുചി. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളെ വളരെ കുറച്ചുപ്പെടുത്താൻ സാധിക്കുമെങ്കിലും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്കാവശ്യമുള്ള പണം മുഴുവനും അനുവദിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

പെൻഷൻകാര്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഒന്നുരണ്ടു സംഗതി പ്രസ്താവിക്കാമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. ഇവിടത്തെ പെൻഷൻചിലവു കുടിവരുന്നുവെന്നും അതു കുറക്കുന്നതിനു എന്തെങ്കിലും ഒരു പരിഹാരം നിർദ്ദേശിക്കണമെന്നും ചില പത്രങ്ങളിൽ കാണുകയുണ്ടായി. മൂന്നുകൊല്ലത്തെ ശമ്പളത്തിൻറെ ആവറേജ് എടുത്തു അതിൻറെ പകുതി പെൻഷൻ കൊടുക്കുന്നതായിട്ടാണു ഞാൻ മനസ്സിലാക്കി വച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഇങ്ങനെ പെൻഷൻ കണക്കാക്കുന്ന രീതിതന്നെ ദിവാൻ രാജഗോപാലാചാരിയുടെ കാലത്താണു തുടങ്ങിയതു്. അതിനുമുമ്പു് ഈ കൊല്ലത്തെ ആവറേജെടുത്താണു പെൻഷൻ നിർണ്ണയിച്ചിരുന്നതു്. ആ പതിവു് ഇനിയും ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുന്നപക്ഷം പെൻഷൻ ചെലവിൽ നാലൊ അഞ്ചൊ ലക്ഷം രൂപ കുറയുവാൻ ഇടയുണ്ടു്. ഇതുയും സംഗതികൾ ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു വിരമിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan (*Karunagapally, Karthigapally and Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertallai*): Sir, a surplus or a deficit budget cannot be praised or condemned merely as such. A deficit budget may call for praise as well as a surplus budget may call for adverse criticism. In years of crisis when urgent measures are to be financed, if the Financial Secretary without introducing oppressive measures, tap new sources of income and raise a large revenue and finance all those schemes certainly a deficit budget which he might present must be praised. Hence, the criterion of condemnation or praise of a budget does not rest upon its being a deficit one or a surplus one. Judged by this standard, I think I cannot share the robust optimism with which some honourable members of this House lavished their encomiums upon the Financial Secretary for having presented to us a surplus budget. Owing to the European war I thought that our finances might be seriously affected, but it is gratifying to learn that our finances have not been affected to any serious extent.

While agreeing in general with the sources of revenue for which new measures of taxation have been resorted to by the Financial Secretary—increase in the income tax, introduction of super tax and the excess profits duty—one is surprised why he has failed to recommend the nationalisation of the salt industry, a measure which

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if adopted will augment our revenue and to which the attention of Government was drawn by this House and the other House even during the last budget session.

Another measure which the Financial Secretary has lost sight of, is the resettlement of land. Since the last settlement which took place about 40 or 50 years ago, a very large area has been brought under cultivation, but the tax on land remains the same as per the last assessment. Owing to the loss of productivity of the soil, owing to cocoanut diseases, and owing to want of rotation of crops and intensive cultivation, and owing to conversion of land from one kind to another, the agriculturists generally find it rather very difficult to pay the tax. In order to effect an equitable distribution of the land tax, a resurvey and a resettlement is a measure which cannot be postponed but which should be taken in hand at once.

At this time of depression and hardship and war conditions it is gratifying to note that Government have made a provision of Rs. 5 lakhs for relief measures, particularly for the relief of the factory workers in and around Alleppey. The measure, as far as it goes, is welcome indeed. But I have to draw the attention of Government to the fact that apart from these factory workers in and around Alleppey, there is a very large population, unorganised population, in the rural areas, in taluks such as Kartikapalli, Karunagapalli and Chirayinkil. A larger sum, if possible, might be provided and relief measures must be extended to this population as well.

But measures like these can only be palliatives and not real remedies. The real remedy for the malady with which we are confronted lies in finding out fresh markets for our coir and coir products. The Dewan-President announced the other day that the American Government are going to raise the duty on coir and coir products. If that be so, our chances in that direction are little indeed. Moreover, owing to war conditions, trade with other countries, particularly beyond the seas, has become risky, nay, even impossible. Hence, the only alternative is, if possible, the finding out of fresh Indian markets for the consumption of finished commodities. Government have already tried and failed in their trial, of employing a paid trade agent. It is also welcome news that Government have announced that they will meet 50 per cent of the expenses of able business agents if private firms or syndicates will take up this question of employing business-like men to find out fresh markets. I think that Government have gone to the limit to which they can possibly go in this matter, and the rest rests with private concerns and private syndicates.

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[Mr. K. M. Kesavan.]

This House, Sir, has unanimously expressed its consent to the opening of a Transport Department. Dear as it is to the Government, I assure you, Sir, it is considered to be as dear and popular with the people also. But that is one thing. When I complain about the irregularities, about the way in which the Transport Department is being managed, about the failure of assurances regarding the net marginal profit, I request you, Sir, not to be misunderstood. Sir, we were assured of a net marginal profit of 25 per cent. from this department when it was started but if we get only 4 per cent at present, certainly it is a matter which requires to be enquired into. Here again, I have to congratulate Government on their very wise decision in appointing an advisory board to look into the matter and keep a vigilant watch, over it so that the management may be carried on as rigorously as possible so that a greater margin of profit may accrue to the State.

The present war is an unjust and an inequitous one and should be looked upon as an evil. But I think it is not entirely an unmixed evil in so far as it affords a temporary facility for the development of some of our infant, indigenous industries. The price of sugar, pencil, paper, medicine, cement and other necessaries of life has risen very high.

President: Has the price of sugar risen ?

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : To some extent, sugar also has risen in price.

President: I doubt it.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: One honourable member reminds me that the price of cement has gone down. If I am rightly informed, the best variety of cement (the hand brand cement) which we were getting down from England is not now available and its price, when I enquired, had risen very high.

Mr. M. S. Doraswami Aiyangar: I assure the honourable member that the Indian cement is in no way inferior to the foreign cement.

Mr. T. W. U. Park: I agree with him, Sir.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: I accept the opinion of such a specialist as Mr. Doraswami Aiyangar. Granting that Indian cement is equally superior to any other variety, may I ask if ample raw material is available, and circumstances are favourable, shall we not manufacture cement in Travancore ?

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President: Cement is one important matter in India which has been freely made for the last 2 or 3 years. In fact, India can produce the best cement, as good as the one imported from any part of the world.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Be that as it may, the war, cursed as it is, affords us an opportunity to develop these industries. Without raising a tariff wall, the war affords us a protection and unless we rise equal to the occasion, we will lose this opportunity once and for all. We have got plenty of raw materials for the manufacture of all varieties of paper and cheap power too at Pallivasal for running mills. Besides encouraging the Punaloor Paper Mills, there is ample facility, as I understand, to start new paper mills at Munnar and Alwaye.

Sir, a word more about war for which we have budgeted a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs. This is intended chiefly for the purpose of forming a civic guard and recruiting a new battalion of territorial force. As soon as the war broke out, in September last, H. H. The Maharaja, our beloved and illustrious Sovereign whose only care is the prosperity of his people, placed all the resources of the State at the service of the British Government. Sir, it is a rare privilege to be born as the subjects of such an eminent Ruler as His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore than whom we can never find a greater social and religious reformer, and a liberator of mankind. Sir, I must admit, without any reservation, that till a short time ago I considered myself to be the most cursed and the most unhappy creature that ever breathed in this country. But with the Temple Entry Proclamation, a new era dawned upon this land. We now breathe the air of freedom and liberty and move about and have our being in an atmosphere of equality and fraternity so much so that my prayer at present is that even in my next birth, I may be born in this land so that I may serve my beloved and benevolent Maharaja.

It is the maker of this *new era* (നവയുഗം), our gracious and beloved Sovereign, who calls us to our duty. War, why should one be afraid of it? Die we must, one day or other. Then why not die for a noble cause, to protect our Sovereign and to defend our country?

When Arjuna sank down dejected and dispirited in his chariot and the bow "Gandeeva" slipped away from his hands Lord Krishna urged him on to duty thus

"ഹതോ വാപ്സ്യസി സ്വർഗ്ഗം
ജിത്വാ വാ ഭോക്ഷ്യസേ മഹീം
തസ്മാദുത്തിഷ്ഠകൗന്തേയ
യുദ്ധായകൃതനിശ്ചയഃ"

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[Mr. K. M. Kesavan.]

O, Arjuna, if you fall in the battle, you gain access to heaven where heroes dwell ; but if you win it, you can rule the country and enjoy all the pleasures of this world. Therefore, Oh, Arjuna, arise with a determined heart and fight.

For those who believe in this ideal, in this philosophy, war is not a thing to be dreaded. It is on the contrary something to be courted. It puts one on one's mettle and excites one to action. Then let us pledge ourselves to the noble course of our beloved Sovereign, obey his behests and rally round the King Emperor and fight until the world is rid of this Nazi menace, which threatens to stifle public opinion, suppress individual freedom, wipe out democracy and democratic principles, and enthrone dictatorship in its place.

Mr. V. S. Arumukhom Pillai: Taking the budget as a whole we find to our extreme gratification that the financial position of the State is sound and unassailable. It is still more gratifying to find that our future is bright and full of hopes. In spite of adverse conditions and circumstances, our Government have been able to finance all our big commercial undertakings not only commercial undertakings but big schemes calculated to minister to the welfare and happiness of the people.

The policy of Government has been to increase the amenities in the towns and villages alike. Increased expenditure has been provided for on all development activities.

A cursory view of the budget would show Government's progressive policy on all directions and the phenomenal improvement of industries in the past decade.

Increased provision has been made for rural reconstruction, rural uplift and for the elevation of the depressed and backward communities in the State.

The main function of a modern State in the realisation of the best life by the individual. How to secure the best life for the people has been the problem before you ever since you assumed charge as the Head of the Administration. But where to go for the necessary funds. Sir, you were able to perceive that the utmost possible limits of expansion under taxation had been reached a long time ago in the State. On the other hand, demand for reduction and remission of taxes had been the most pressing problem before you and your regime has been characterised by substantial and magnanimous remissions of tax, year after year.

With your keen foresight and administrative talents you were able to perceive immediately but unless the activities of Government were directed to develop the industries of the State there was very little hope for the country and the people and you embarked upon a policy of industrialisation of the country on a wide scale.

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As we all know during the last few years under your inspiring influence Government embarked upon big commercial and industrial enterprises with a view to make the utmost use of the material resources of the State. It is a matter of immense gratification that the big commercial undertakings have begun to bear fruit. It is no doubt due to your indomitable perseverance and courage. It has filled us with great hopes. They would surely strengthen considerably the revenue position of the Government. Industrialisation of the country on a wide scale will soon be an accomplished thing. They are sure to render to the public increased amenities and conveniences. In stimulating the trade and industries to develop, they are sure to mitigate to a great extent the most serious problem of unemployment.

How were you able to provide for these and for other non-productive schemes calculated to increase the amenities of the people? You relied upon the utilisation of the natural resources of the State. Your activities were directed to the exploration of latent resources hidden in nature—you were able to find wealth in forests, in minerals, in sea, in sand and in rocks. You waged a regular war with nature.

We are happy to learn that limestone is available for us in plenty to start a cement factory on a wide scale.

On the whole the future is full of hopes. Our State is an ideal, well-managed State. In this connection a few passages from Sir M. Visweswara Aiyah may be quoted.

> "In a well-managed modern State, industries and trade provide more than half the income of the people. Under Indian conditions, nearly 3/4 of the population live in the lowest form of occupation, practised in the most primitive manner, namely agriculture. No one in authority seems concerned about this. There is no active interest in the powers that be to develop industrial life or spread sound ideas of economic progress among our people."

The wealth of the country is derived by the work of its people. In the West, State organisations provide both training and work for their people and the country reaps a rich harvest. Here, on the other hand, material resources remain undeveloped and the brain power of the country is allowed to lie fallow to the permanent injury of the efficiency and evading power of our people. In this sense, many of the States' administrations are, I regret I have to state, unpatriotic if not out of date."

Our land revenue contributes only about 15% of the total income. Most of our wealth is got from trade and industries. State organisations have been undertaken, and our State satisfies all the tests laid down by Sir M. Visweswara Aiyah.

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[Mr. V. S Arumukhom Pillai.]

Having said all these, I will be failing in my duty if I do no advert to one important matter. This is a critical time in the political life of our country. In spite of all-round progress which we have attained, the so-called Indian leaders and patriots would, in common with all the Indian States, look down on us with contempt. They seem to evince great sympathy for us and it is apprehended that in any reform likely to be introduced, they would attempt to drag us also. Sir, kindly save us from these sympathisers. The question has already been alluded to in your statement. I refer to it just to draw your attention to the grave responsibility lying on your shoulders.

In the budget, a provision has been made for war purposes. As a result of the war, many have been thrown out of employment. Provision has also been made to relieve their distress.

Owing to the above new and extraordinary items of expenditure, Government had recourse to fresh taxation. In Madras we know, immediately the Congress Ministry came to power a host of taxes were imposed. There was great commotion, because it touched the poor. Here it will only be applauded by the poor. You have taxed only the rich and those why can afford and that, for giving to the poor.

Tax is defended on administrative ground that the subjects of every State ought to contribute to the support of Government as nearly as possible according to their respective abilities *i. e*,, in proportion to the revenue which they respectively enjoy under the protection of the State.

Sir, our revenues are elastic and the burden of taxation is light. But the Financial Secretary is not correct when he says that the taxes are equitably distributed. Taxation in the south especially in Nanjinad is onerous and excessive. That fact has been already conceded by Government on several occasions.

In the matter of taxation as in so many other matters, Nanjinad has been receiving a step-motherly treatment. We are no doubt grateful to you for the remissions but the fact remains that taxation in the south is considerably high when compared to other parts of the State.

President : There is about half an hour more and there are four or six members to speak. So honourable members will try to finish their speeches within 5 minutes. I want to give every honourable member an opportunity.

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Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan: സർ, ബഡ്ജറ്റിനെസംബന്ധിച്ചു പ്രസ്താവിക്കുന്നതിനുമുമ്പായി എന്റെ മാന്യസ്നേഹിതൻ മി. കല്ലൂർ നാരായണപിള്ള ഈ സഭയുടെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്ന സംഗതിയിൽ എനിക്കുള്ള അനുകൂല്യത്തെ പ്രസ്പഷ്ടമാക്കിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തേയ്ക്കു മാത്രമല്ല, ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ അങ്കമാനമുള്ള നിയമസഭകൾക്കൊക്കെ മാതൃകയായിരിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം, അര ശതാബ്ദത്തിനുമുമ്പു ശ്രീമൂലം പ്രജാസഭ, നിയമസഭ തുടങ്ങിയ പ്രതിനിധിസമിതികൾ സ്ഥാപിച്ച പുണ്യശ്ലോകനായ ശ്രീമൂലംതിരുനാൾ തിരുമേനിയുടെ സമാധിദിനം നാം എല്ലാവരും ആചരിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നുള്ള മി. കല്ലൂർ നാരായണപിള്ളയുടെ അഭിപ്രായത്തെ ഞാൻ ബലമായി പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു. തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടു കർക്കടകമാസത്തെ ചോതി നാൾ (അതായത്, നാളെ) അണല്ലൊ സമാധിപ്രവിഷ്ടനായതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു നാളെ ആ തിരുമേനിയുടെ പൂജ്യനാമത്തോടു നമുക്കുള്ള ആദരാതിരേകത്തെ പ്രകടമാക്കുന്നതിനായി ഏതാനും സമയമെങ്കിലും സഭാനടപടികൾ നിറുത്തിവക്കണമെന്നുള്ള എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായവും ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ പ്രകടിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളട്ടെ.

സർ, ഈ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ധനപരമായ പാരമ്പര്യങ്ങളെ അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തിയും, മാമൂലുകളെ വിടാതെയും എന്നാൽ ഭരണസമ്പ്രദായങ്ങളിൽ പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള സ്ഥാനം എന്താണെന്നും ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ നില എന്താണെന്നുമുള്ള മൌലികപ്രമാണങ്ങളെ അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തിയും ഈപ്രാവശ്യത്തെ ബഡ്ജറു, ചെലവിനങ്ങൾ കുറയ്ക്കാതെയും, വരവിനങ്ങൾ പുതിയമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽ കൂടി വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചും ശുപവൽക്കരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതിൽ ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി തികച്ചും അഭിനന്ദനാർഹനായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലം ഇതുപോലെ ബഡ്ജറുനിരൂപണം ചെയ്ത സന്ദർഭത്തെക്കാൾ വളരെ വ്യത്യസ്ഥമായ ഒരു പരിതസ്ഥിതിയാണു് ഇന്നുള്ളതു്. ഫ്രഞ്ചുകാരുടെ ഭരണം ഏതുവിധത്തിലായിരിക്കണമെന്നു നിർണ്ണയിക്കുവാൻ പോകുന്നതു ഭൂലോകത്തെ ഒട്ടാകെ ഗ്രസിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന യുദ്ധത്തിന്റെ മാറ്റൊലികൾക്കിടയിൽ കൂടിയാണു്. ആ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ ഇത്തരത്തിൽ ഒരു ബഡ്ജറു രൂപീകരിച്ചതിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ എത്രത്തന്നെ അഭിനന്ദിച്ചാലും മതിയാകുന്നതല്ല. ബഡ്ജറിനെപ്പറ്റി നിരൂപണം ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ ഈ സംഗതികൂടി സ്മൃതിപഥത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കേണ്ടതാകുന്നു.

സർ, നിയമസഭയുടെ സംയുക്തസമ്മേളനത്തിൽ ദിവാൻപ്രസിഡൻറു് എന്ന നിലയിൽ അങ്ങു് പ്രസ്താവിച്ച തത്വങ്ങളിൽ അണിക്കല്ലായി

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[Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan.]

നിൽക്കുന്നതു് ഈ നാട്ടിലെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആഹാരസമ്പാദനവിഷയമാണല്ലൊ. നാം ഈ ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങളിലുള്ള പാരതന്ത്ര്യം നീക്കുന്നില്ലാത്തപക്ഷം നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ പുരോഗതി നിന്നുപോകുമെന്നും, അതുകൊണ്ടു രാജ്യം വ്യവസായപരമായ ഒരു നിലയെ കൈക്കൊണ്ടു ഇതിനുള്ള വഴിവുണ്ടാക്കണമെന്നും, അതിലേക്കു രാജ്യത്തെ വ്യവസായതൽപരന്മാർ മുന്നോട്ടു വരണമെന്നും, അവക്കുണ്ടാകാവുന്ന പ്രാഥമികചെലവിന്റെ അൻപതു ശതമാനം ഗവണ്മെൻറ് കൊടുക്കുവാൻ തയാറുണ്ടെന്നും മറ്റും അങ്ങു പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതു ശുഭോദർക്കമായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഏറ്റവും പ്രശംസനീയവും ആദർശയോഗ്യവുമായ ഒരു മനോഭാവത്തെ അതു കാണിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ പ്രധാനമായ മറ്റൊരു സംഗതിക്കുടിയുണ്ടു്. രാജ്യം വ്യവസായപരമായി എത്രതന്നെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെട്ടിരുന്നാലും ആഹാരസമ്പാദനവിഷയത്തിൽ പാരതന്ത്ര്യം അനുഭവിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ, ഇവിടെ ക്രമപ്രവൃദ്ധമായി ഉണ്ടായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ജനസംഖ്യക്കനുസൃതമായി ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങളും വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാതെ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ഐശ്വര്യവും സുസ്ഥിരമായിരിക്കുന്നതല്ല. അതു ചെയ്യാതെ, വ്യവസായങ്ങളെ പോഷിപ്പിച്ചാലും ശരി, മറ്റു കമ്പോളമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചാലും ശരി, രാജ്യം പുരോഗമിക്കുകയില്ല. ഇതുകൊണ്ടാണു ദീർഘദൃക്കുകളായ ഭരണമേധാവികൾ കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ വിപുലപ്പെടുത്തിവരുന്നതു്. ഞാൻ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ ദൃഷ്യപ്പെടുത്തുകയല്ല. ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെ മാന്ദ്യപ്പെടുത്തുകയുമല്ല. ഗവണ്മെൻറും ജനങ്ങളും കൂടിയോജിച്ചുനിന്നു, അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കുള്ള മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. രാജ്യത്തിന്നാവശ്യമുള്ള നെല്ലു് ഇവിടെനിന്നുതന്നെ ശരിയ്യായി വിളയിച്ചെടുക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുമോ എന്നാണു പരീക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടതു്. എന്റെ അറിവിൽ അതിനു ചില മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളുണ്ടു്. കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെപ്പറ്റി പറയുമ്പോൾ ഞാൻ അതു വിസ്തരിച്ചു പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളാം. ഒരു പഞ്ചവത്സരപദ്ധതി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി അഞ്ചുകൊല്ലക്കാലംകൊണ്ടു ഇവിടെയുള്ള സകലനിലങ്ങളേയും കൃഷിക്കുപയുക്തമാക്കി കൃഷിചെയ്യാവുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു കൂടുതൽ ആദായം എടുക്കുവാൻ ഉള്ള മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കുവാൻ ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിയെ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി ആ കമ്മറ്റിയുടെ നിർദ്ദേശം അനുസരിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കേണ്ടതാകുന്നു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തുള്ള നിലങ്ങളിൽ മൂന്നിലൊന്നുഭാഗം ഉഴുതുമറിക്കാൻ പറ്റുന്ന സ്ഥലമാണു കുട്ടനാടു്. അവിടത്തെ സ്വദേശിയും കൃഷിക്കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ ചിരപരിചിതനുമായ ഒരു മഹാനുഭാവനാകുന്നു ഇന്നത്തെ ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി. അദ്ദേഹം ഒരു ശരിയായ

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കർഷകനാണു്. പലതരത്തിലുള്ള ഭരണതന്ത്രങ്ങളിൽ അദ്ദേഹം പരിചയിക്കപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടു്. റവന്യൂഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെപ്പററി ശരിയായി പഠിച്ച ആളാണു്. അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ കാലത്തു ഒരു പദ്ധതിയുണ്ടാക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഞാൻ മുമ്പു പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതുപോലെയുള്ള ഒരു പദ്ധതിയുണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ ഇനിയും വളരെനാൾ വേണ്ടിവരുമെന്നുള്ളതു നിസ്തർക്കമാണു്. കൂട്ടനാട്ടിൽ ഇനിയും കൃഷിചെയ്യാൻ കൂടുതൽ സ്ഥലമുണ്ടോ എന്നും കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്ന സ്ഥലത്തുനിന്നും കൂടുതൽ ആദായം ഉണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ കഴിവുണ്ടോ എന്നും അന്വേഷിച്ചറിയുന്നതിനു ഗവണ്മെൻറു പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്.

ഇനി പെൻഷനെപ്പററി ഒരു വാക്കു പറയുവാനുണ്ടു്. പെൻഷൻ ചെലവു കുറക്കണമെന്നുള്ള കാര്യം കൂടി ഗവണ്മെൻറു് ആലോചിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. നാം ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരു ജനനിവാരണബിൽ ഉണ്ടാക്കി ജനങ്ങളുടെ ചെലവിനങ്ങളെ നിയന്ത്രിക്കുവാൻ പോകുന്ന ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ മുപ്പതുകൊല്ലം ജോലി ചെയ്തവക്കു മുപ്പതു ശതമാനവും, ഇരുപതുകൊല്ലം ജോലിചെയ്തവക്കു ഇരുപതു ശതമാനവും,—ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു തോതു നിർണ്ണയിച്ചോ, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ, മറേറതെങ്കിലും വിധത്തിലൊ കുറവു വരുത്തി പെൻഷൻചെലവു കുറക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തെപ്പററി പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാകുന്നു. മി. കല്ലൂർ നാരായണപിള്ള പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ കാലാവധി നാട്ടിക്കൊടുത്താ മറെറാ പ്രായോഗികമായ പോംവഴി സ്വീകരിക്കുന്നതിലും എനിക്കു വിരോധമില്ല. എന്നാൽ ഈ നാട്ടിൽ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്ന തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുകൂടി ഗവണ്മെൻറു് ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ആലോചിക്കുവാനുള്ളതാകുന്നു.

President : The honourable member has two minutes more.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan: അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ നാലൊ അഞ്ചൊ കൊല്ലം, പ്രായം കവിഞ്ഞിട്ടും ഉദ്യോഗത്തിൽ വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന നയത്തോടു എനിക്കു എതിരില്ല. എന്നാൽ സമുദായപ്രാതിനിധ്യം കൊടുത്തും, ദേശീയപ്രാതിനിധ്യം കൊടുത്തും, നിയമനങ്ങളും നടത്തുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ബദ്ധശ്രദ്ധമായിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു്, ഇരിക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ ഇപ്രകാരം കാലാവധി നീട്ടി അതേസ്ഥാനങ്ങളിൽതന്നെ വളരെക്കാലം വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നാൽ പ്രാതിനിധ്യക്കുറവുള്ള സമുദായക്കാർക്കു അവരുടെ അംശം കിട്ടുന്നതിനു വളരെനാൾ കാത്തിരിക്കേണ്ടിവരുമെന്നുള്ള സംഗതിയും ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കാതിരിക്കാൻ തരമില്ല.

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[Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan.

അടുത്തതായി തൊഴിലാളികളെപ്പറ്റിയാണ്. അവരുടെ അവശതകളെ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിന് ഗവണ്മെൻറ് അഞ്ചു ലക്ഷംരൂപ നീക്കിവച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടല്ലോ. ഈ തുക ആലപ്പുഴയിലും സമീപപ്രദേശങ്ങളിലും അധിവസിക്കുന്ന ആളുകൾക്കായി ഉപയോഗിക്കണമെന്നും ആലപ്പുഴയും പരിസരപ്രദേശങ്ങളും നന്നാക്കുന്നതിലേക്കായി ഈ തുക വിനിയോഗിക്കപ്പെടണമെന്നും എനിക്കു പ്രത്യേകം അഭിപ്രായമുണ്ട്. ഒരു പ്രധാനസംഗതി ഈ കായ്ത്തെപ്പറ്റി എനിക്കു ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിക്കുവാനുള്ളതു ഈ തുകയിൽ ഒരംശവും അന്യായാളുകൾക്ക് കൊണ്ടുപോകുവാൻ ഇടവരുത്തരുതെന്നാകുന്നു. ഇതിനു ഒരുവഴിക്രൂടി പറയാം. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകാരെക്കൊണ്ടു ജോലിചെയ്യിക്കരുതു്. അതാതു സ്ഥലത്തുള്ള പ്രമാണികളിൽ ചിലരേയും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറൽ അധികൃതന്മാരേയുംക്രൂടിചേർത്തു ഇതിലേക്കു ലോക്കൽ കമ്മിറ്റികൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തണം. അതാതു സ്ഥലത്തുള്ള ന്യായമായ കൂലിക്കു ജോലിനടത്തുകയും വേണം. ഒരിക്കലും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകാർ കൂലികൊടുക്കാൻ അനുവദിക്കരുതു്. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകാർ, ചെയ്യിക്കുന്ന ജോലിമാത്രം വന്നു പരിശോധിച്ചുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. ലോക്കൽ കമ്മിറ്റികളായിരിക്കണം ജോലിനടത്തേണ്ടതു്. ഇങ്ങനെ ചെയ്താൽ ഈ അഞ്ചു ലക്ഷംരൂപകൊണ്ടു ശരിയായവിധത്തിൽ ചെയ്യാവുന്നതു ജോലി ചെയ്യിക്കാൻ കഴിയുന്നതാണ്.

Miss Thressia Kora (*Thodupuzha* cum *Meenachil*): Sir, it is a pleasant surprise that in spite of the gloom and uncertainty of the war, our Financial Secretary has been able to prepare a surplus budget. That our finances have not been adversely affected by anything that is going on outside is a matter of consolation for all of us. The provision of 10 lakhs of rupees for military expenses and 5 lakhs as a contribution to the Distress Relief Fund all show our wide outlook and due appreciation of the needs of the times.

But this is not all. There is another side to this seemingly rosy picture. The Debt Relief Bill even when it becomes law is not going a long way to relieve the distress of the agriculturist. The debtors have accepted the Bill on the principle that beggars can't be choosers. Considering the heavy fall in the prices of agricultural commodities, excepting perhaps rubber, it is high time for the Government to think of a permanent reduction in land tax.

Mr. P. R. Godavarma Raja (*Edavaga*): I wish to thank the Financial Secretary for the splendid and lucid way in which he has presented the Budget for 1116. I should have expected an economy Budget, to call it, and not a surplus Budget that he has

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presented. This is the time when all of us should effect the utmost economy in our finances. In order to show a surplus of Rs. 13·7 lakhs in our revenues' the Financial Secretary has recommended two additional measures of taxation which I fear will not be very well received by the people.

Considering the present conditions in Travancore, I think that it is not easy to expect any substantial revenue by way of these two measures of taxation; Industry in Travancore is, to say the least, in its infancy ; and business now is very dull. So it will not be quite wrong if I say that the Financial Secretary's expectations in this matter are not quite justified. Sir, I have adverted already to the necessity of economising our expenditure. The measures of economy now adopted are far from adequate. If you read through the speech of the Financial Secretary you will find that the expenditure on civil administration has increased very much. In 1092 it was 50·2 lakhs. For 1116 it is more than double that figure. Therefore, I say that the expenditure side of our budget is exceeding beyond our expectations. In this connection I would draw the attention of Government to see proper reductions are made as far as possible in all the items of expenditure. For this purpose an enquiry by a committee consisting of officials and non-officials may be conducted. I do not know whether it will be received well by the Government, still it is my duty to request the the Government to do these in the interest of our financial stability.

Then again, Sir, I refer to the Transport Department. The Financial Secretary has admitted that the revenue from the department has not come up to expectations. The reason, so far as, I can see is the top heavy administration charges of the department. The newly constituted Advisory Committee for this department will, I am sure, be going into the question and report the methods whereby some retrenchment could be effected.

President: Order. Order. The honourable member has only a minute more.

Mr. P. R. Godavarma Raja: Sir, I am glad to find that the Financial Secretary has set apart at least a portion of the revenue for the nation building departments, for the relief of distress of the unemployed, for the rural uplift work and agricultural propaganda, and for other items of economic activities. With these words I take my seat.

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Mr. E. K. Kuripe : സർ, ബഡ്ജറിനെപ്പറ്റി വിമർശിക്കുന്നതിനുമുൻപ് ഒരു കാര്യം പറയാൻ ഞാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെജനങ്ങളുടെ താൽപര്യങ്ങളെ അറിയാൻഅത്യാകാംക്ഷയുള്ള ദിവാൻ പ്രസിഡൻറിനു വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ കാര്യങ്ങൾ അറിയുവാനും ഔൽസുക്യം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതാണല്ലൊ. വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനെ പ്രതിനിധീകരിക്കുന്നവരായി മി. ജി. നാരായണയ്യരും ഞാനും മാത്രമെ ഇവിടെയുള്ളൂ. മി. നാരായണയ്യർ ഇന്നുവിടെ ഹാജരില്ലാത്തനിലക്ക് എനിക്കു കുറച്ചു സമയംകൂടി അനുവദിച്ചുതരണമെന്നപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

President : You will get 5 minutes, because honourable members will see that the Financial Secretary will have to say something, and the Chief Secretary also will have to make a few remarks in answer to the points raised. So I will give for the rest of the speakers five minutes each.

Mr. E. K. Kuripe : സർ, ബഡ്ജറിൽ കൊള്ളിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന വ്യവസായപരമായ ആദായമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി ചിന്തിക്കുമ്പോൾ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനു ശോഭനീയമായ ഒരു ഭാവിയുണ്ടെന്നു ന്യായമായി ആശിക്കാം.

ഒരു കർഷകരാജ്യംമാത്രമായിരുന്ന തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ വ്യവസായപരമായി നാംകാണുന്ന ഉണ്ടായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന അഭിവൃദ്ധി ഓരോ പൗരന്റേയും ചിന്തയിൽ പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ നിലയിൽ ഉയർന്നുപോകുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അടുത്തഭാവിയിൽത്തന്നെ വ്യവസായപരമായി ഇൻഡ്യയിലെ ഒന്നാമത്തെസ്ഥാനം തിരുവിതാംകൂർ കൈക്കലാക്കുമെന്നു നിസ്സംശയം അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടാം. ലോകത്തിലുള്ള പലരുടേയും ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ പെടത്തക്കവണ്ണം തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഒരു പ്രധാനരാജ്യമായിത്തീരുകയും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു. രാജ്യത്തിനുള്ളിൽതന്നെ ഇവിടെ തുടങ്ങുന്ന വ്യവസായങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വിശ്വാസവും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതിനെല്ലാം കാരണക്കാരൻ ആരാണെന്നു നമുക്കേവർക്കും അറിയാം. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനെ ഭരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളവരിൽ വലിയആൾ എന്നപേരിൽ ഇൻഡ്യാരാജ്യമൊട്ടുക്കു അറിയപ്പെടുന്ന ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ദിവാൻജി അവർകളല്ലാതെ മറ്റാരുമല്ലൊ.

സർ, ഏതൊരു ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റേയും ഏതു പ്രവർത്തനവും വിജയപ്രദമായി നടക്കുന്നതിനു ഈശ്വരസഹായം വളരെ ആവശ്യമാണ്. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ ഭാഗ്യംകൊണ്ടു ഈശ്വരവിശ്വാസത്തിൽ അടിയുറച്ച ഒരു മഹാരാജാവുതിരുമേനിയേയും അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു അനുയോജ്യനായ ഒരു ദിവാൻജിയേയും ലഭിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈശ്വരവിശ്വാസത്തെ ദൃഢത്താ

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ക്കുന്ന പ്രസ്ഥാനങ്ങൾ രാജ്യത്തുപടർന്നു പിടിക്കാതിരിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ കഴിയുന്നത്ര ശ്രമിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്.

മാതൃഭാഷക്കു തിരുവിതാംകൂർഗവണ്മെൻറു യാതൊരു പ്രാധാന്യവും കൊടുക്കുന്നില്ല. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ മാതൃഭാഷക്കുസ്ഥാനം കൊടുക്കാത്തതു വളരെ കഷ്ടമാണ്. ജനങ്ങളുടെ മാതൃഭാഷയേയും അവരുടെ പാരമ്പര്യങ്ങളേയും സംരക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടതു ഏതൊരു പരിഷ്കൃതഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റേയും മുമതലയാണ്.

സർവരാജ്യ സ്ഥിതിഗതികൾ ഗൗരവാവഹമായിത്തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്ന ഇത്തരുണത്തിൽ എല്ലാവിധത്തിലും ചെലവു മുരുക്കേണ്ടതു ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ മുമതലയാണ്. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളം ഇവിടത്തെ പരിതസ്ഥിതിക്കു ഒട്ടും യോജിച്ചതല്ല. വളരെ മാനമായി ജീവിക്കുന്നതിനു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഒരു പൗരനു പ്രതിമാസം ൫൦൦ രൂപയിൽ കൂടുതൽ ആവശ്യമില്ല. ആ സ്ഥിതിക്കു ചില പ്രത്യേക കാര്യങ്ങളുടെ മുമതലവഹിക്കുന്ന മുരുക്കം ചിലർ ഒഴിച്ചു് ൪൦൦ രൂപയിൽ കൂടുതലായതുക ശമ്പളമായി കൊടുക്കേണ്ടയാവശ്യമില്ല. പെൻഷന്റെ കാര്യത്തിലും ചില സംഗതികൾ ഗൗനിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. വൻതുക ശമ്പളമായി പറ്റിയിരുന്നവർക്കു വൻതുക പെൻഷനായും ലഭിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. ൧൦൦ രൂപയിൽ കൂടിയതുക പെൻഷൻകൊടുക്കയില്ല എന്നു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ ക്ഷേമത്തെ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചു് ഒരു നിയമം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ടതാണ്. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ പലരും അവരുടെ ഉദ്യോഗകാലത്തുതന്നെ ൨൦൦-൦ ൫൦൦-൦ ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ തോട്ടങ്ങൾക്കായി പതിച്ചെടുക്കാറുണ്ടു്. അവരുടെ ജീവിതത്തെപ്പറ്റി അത്രവളരെ ഉൽകണ്ഠ കാണിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നു കാണിക്കാനാണു് ഞാൻ ഇത്രയും പറഞ്ഞതു്.

ടാൻസ്പോർട്ടു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെപ്പറ്റി വളരെ അധികം പറയാനുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ സമയദൗർലഭ്യംകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ അതിനു മുനിയുന്നില്ല. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തനദൃഷ്യംകൊണ്ടോ, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ജാഗ്രതക്കുറവുകൊണ്ടോ, ഇപ്പോൾ ടാൻസ്പോർട്ടു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും കിട്ടാവുന്നിടത്തോളം ആദായം കിട്ടുന്നില്ല. ബസ്സിനകത്തു ജനങ്ങളെ ചിലപ്പോൾ കണ്ടമാനം കയറുന്നു. മഴ പെയ്താൽ മിക്കവാറും ബസ്സിനകത്തു വെള്ളം ചോർന്നുവീഴുന്നതായി എനിക്കുതന്നെ അനുഭവമുണ്ടു്.

എനിക്കു ഇനി പറയാനുള്ളതു ഫാറസ്റ്റിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണു്. വനസംരക്ഷണത്തിനായി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്ന ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ

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[Mr. E. K. Kuripe.]

ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ അധികംപേരും സ്വന്തകാര്യലാഭത്തിനുവേണ്ടി വനത്തെ നശിപ്പിക്കുകയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. വടക്കൻതാലൂക്കിൽപെട്ട റിസർവുകൾ പരിശോധിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ഈ സംഗതി ബോദ്ധ്യമാകുന്നതാണു്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ലാഭംവരത്തക്കനിലയിൽ എന്തെങ്കിലും പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ എന്നു ഞാൻ സംശയിക്കുന്നു. ഇദ്ദേഹം അടുത്തകാലത്തു വടക്കൻതാലൂക്കുകളിൽ ഉള്ള റിസർവുകളിലെ പ്രധാനഭാഗങ്ങൾ കണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്നു കൂടി ചിന്തിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ റിസർവുകളിൽ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്ന നല്ല തടികൾ അനവധി ഫാറസ്റ്റ് സിൽബന്തികളുടെ അറിവോടുകൂടി വെട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടുപോയിട്ടുണ്ടു്. വിലയുടെ ഒരുഭാഗം കൈക്കൂലി കൊടുക്കാമെങ്കിൽ വനവിഭവങ്ങളിൽപെട്ട ഏതു സാധനവും ആർക്കും കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനു വിഷമമില്ല. ഒരു തടിക്കു പാസുകൊടുത്താൽ ആ പാസുകൊണ്ടു് ആയിരം തടികൾ കടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നു എന്നതന്നെയുമല്ലാ അനവധി ആനകളെക്കൂടി റിസർവുകളിൽനിന്നു ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് അതിർത്തിയിൽപെട്ട ആളുകളും മറുമായി വെടിവച്ചു നശിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുമാണു എന്റെ അറിവു. ഈ റിസർവുകളിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ വലിയ തടികളൊ വലിയ കൊമ്പുള്ള ആനകളൊ കാണാനില്ല.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : കൊമ്പനാനകൾ ഇല്ലാതെ പോയതു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ കുറ്റംകൊണ്ടോ അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ കുറ്റംകൊണ്ടോ?

Mr. E. K. Kuripe : ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ വേണ്ട വിധത്തിൽ വനത്തെനിയന്ത്രിച്ചും മൃഗങ്ങളെ വെടിവച്ചുനശിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനും മറും ഇടവരുത്താതെയുമിരുന്നാൽ വലിയ കൊമ്പുള്ള ആനകൾ അവിടെ കാണാൻ പ്രയാസമില്ലായിരുന്നു.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : മെംബർ വനങ്ങളിൽ കൊമ്പുള്ള ആനകൾ ഇല്ലെന്നു പറഞ്ഞല്ലൊ; അവിടെ പിടിയാനകൾ മാത്രമാണൊ ഉള്ളതു്?

Mr. E. K. Kuripe : വലിയകൊമ്പുള്ള ആനകൾ ഇല്ലെന്നേ ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞുള്ളൂ.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : മെംബർ എവിടെനിന്നാണു ഈ വിവരം അറിഞ്ഞതു്? കാട്ടിൽപോയി നോക്കിയൊ?

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Mr. E. K. Kuripe : എനിക്കു റിസർവിനടുത്തു ധാരാളം കൃഷി സ്ഥലങ്ങളുണ്ട്. ആനകളെക്രൂടക്കൂടെ കാണാറുമുണ്ട്, മുൻപു വലിയകൊമ്പുള്ള ആനകളെ കാണാൻ കഴിയുമായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ കാണുന്നില്ല. വലിയ കൊമ്പുള്ള ആനകൾ കാട്ടിൽ കാണുന്നില്ലാ എന്നു പലരും പറഞ്ഞുകേട്ടിട്ടുമുണ്ട്. ഇപ്പോൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും പിടിച്ചെടുക്കുന്ന ആനകളെ ലേലം ചെയ്തു വില്ക്കുന്നുണ്ടല്ലോ. വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞ തുകയ്ക്കാണു ലേലത്തിൽ പോകുന്നതു്. വലിയ കൊമ്പുള്ള ആനയ്ക്കാണു ധാരാളം വിലകിട്ടുക.

ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ കൂടുതൽ ആദായത്തിനുവേണ്ടി പ്രത്യേകം പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്താൻ സാധിച്ചില്ലെങ്കിലും കഴിഞ്ഞകാലങ്ങളിൽ കിട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടിരുന്ന ആദായങ്ങളെങ്കിലും ലഭിക്കത്തക്കനിലയിൽ വേണ്ടതായ കർശന നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഉടനടി ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാകുന്നു. റബ്ബർ കൃഷിചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളെസംബന്ധിച്ചു് കൂടുതൽ കരം ചുമത്തേണ്ടതാണെന്നു മി. കോട്ടൂർ കുഞ്ഞുകൃഷ്ണപിള്ള ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കയുണ്ടായി. എന്നാൽ റബ്ബറിനു യാതൊരുവിലയും ഇല്ലാതിരുന്നകാലത്തു റബ്ബർകൃഷിക്കാർ വളരെ നഷ്ടം സഹിക്കേണ്ടിവന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറു ചിന്തിക്കണം. ഒരുകാലത്തുപോലും ആദായമില്ലാതിരുന്നകാലത്തു ഗവണ്മെൻറിലേക്കു കരം കൊടുത്തുകൊണ്ടാണു അവർ ഇരുന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു്. യാതൊരു ആദായവും കിട്ടാതിരുന്നകാലത്തു നിശ്ചിതകരം കൊടുത്തുകൊണ്ടിരുന്ന അവർ റബ്ബറിനു അല്പം വിലകൂടിയ ഉടൻ കരം കൂട്ടിക്കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതു ഒരിക്കലും ന്യായമല്ല. അഥവാ ഇപ്രകാരം പ്രവർത്തിച്ചാൽ വില കൂടുതൽ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള മറ്റു ഉൽപന്നങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള കരവും കൂട്ടേണ്ടതാണു്.

Mr. A. Eswara Pillai (*Kottarakara and Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*) : Sir, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Government and the Financial Secretary on the surplus budget which they have been able to present to us. Although I express my appreciation of a prosperity budget, I don't admit that it indicates the prosperity of the people of Travancore. While we record a phenominal upward rise in the finances of the State, the finances of the people are going downhill at a rapid rate. The budgets of several families in the State are in hopeless deficit. They have lost already their economic equilibrium. Squalor and penury is staring the people at their faces. This unhappy situation has been mainly brought about by the prevailing unemployment in the

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[Mr. A. Eswara Pillai.]

State. This is not at all a new problem. On account of rapid increase in population, devastations of last war and consequent economic depression, and also on account of defective system of education, several thousands of our countrymen, both educated and uneducated are left without employment. The situation is only further intensified by the present war. Our trade and commerce have been paralysed. Prices of our indegenous articles have gone down to a considerable extent. The Financial Secretary has stated that about 3,00,000 of people are left without employment in Alleppey and surrounding places. We can more or less imagine what will be the number in other coastal taluks and industrial towns. It is a matter for thankfulness that Government have allotted five lakhs of rupees for alleviating the distress of these unemployed people. But my submission is that this amount is insufficient and this only touches the fringe of the problem. If any substantial help should be given to the people already unemployed we must find out a large amount of money; and the problem is: how to find out this money. Additional taxation is out of the question, except by imposition of super-tax and income-tax. Even these taxes will fetch only a nominal amount.

Mr. M. Govindan: May I know whether there is any objection to a fresh land revenue settlement?

Mr. A. Eswara Pillai: That also requires much by way of preliminary expenses. Otherwise, it would be a desirable step. My suggestion is that we can only find funds by effecting substantial retrenchment. It alone is possible and feasible under the circumstances. We have got several superfluous and unnecessary offices and officers; for instance, the post of Chief Inspectors of Schools, the post of some of the District Engineers and Sub-Engineers, all the posts of Assistant Superintendents of Police and several other posts. The existence of these posts really serve as a drain to the exchequer under a clog to the free movement of Government machinery. Hence, I suggest that these superfluous offices and officers may be abolished.

Then, I submit that our administration seems to be top-heavy. We expend more than forty per cent. of our income for salaries and superannuation charges. This expenditure is certainly out of all proportion to our income. My submission is that the pruning knife should be applied ruthlessly in cutting down the salaries of officers. Sir, this is an extraordinary time and it requires extraordinary measures; nobody need grudge over it. My suggestion is that a five per cent. cut in the salaries of officers drawing Rs. 100 to 200, a ten per cent. cut in the salaries of officers getting Rs. 200 to 300, a fifteen per cent. reduction in the salaries

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of officers drawing between Rs. 300 to 500,and 20 per cent. for the salaries above Rs. 500 must be made by way of retrenchment. Some of my honourable friends suggested that a maximum and minimum amount of salaries should be fixed. I am at one with them. At any rate, the maximum salary of an officer in the State should not exceed Rs. 500 and the minimum should not be less than Rs. 15. If Government accept my proposals for retrenchment, a large amount can be saved. This can be used for relieving the distress of the unemployed persons in the State.

Mrs. Abernam Gnanasigamony (*Nominated*): Sir, it is encouraging to see that the Financial Secretary has brought forward a surplus Budget, and he must needs be congratulated for it. It is also noteworthy that we are not going to have any excess taxation. It is because of the great ability of the administrative head of the State that he was able to handle the finances in such a way that the poor is not taxed any more. He finds fresh sources of income and he digs out the hidden treasures of the land. One whole hill of limestone on the borders of this State has hitherto been hidden. But it was because of our Dewan's earnestness about the income of the State that he made the best use of his friend's visit to this land. The University research work is to give us cheap Shark liver oil. This is valuable especially at a time when the price of the common Cod liver oil has risen to prohibitive rates. Not only that, the foreign Cod liver oil has become difficult to be obtained from the market. Similarly, the Ceramic industries is to be a very remunerative enterprise in the State and I am sure it will give us a perpetual income. Again the Aluminium industry is one eminently fitted for the times. The present time with its demand for materials and articles of war, needs aluminium in very large quantities. The prophesy regarding the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme has been fulfilled just like the Mettur dam on the other side of the Ghats.

Sir, I would also add one word about the Trivandrum—Cape road. The dustless road has become a boon to the travelling public of Travancore at present. One suggestion that I wish to make is that Government should also make arrangements for prohibiting bullock cart traffic through that road and for providing foot-path on either side of the road. These two things will serve a very useful purpose and will make the road last long.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar (*Vaikom, Kottayam and Changanacherry* cum *Peermade*): Sir, I congratulate the Financial Secretary for the optimistic presentation of a prosperity Budget, in spite of uncertain and adverse conditions here and abroad. The figure attempted to be reached or anticipated is Rs. 285,40 lakhs, really the

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[Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar.]

highest figure ever anticipated or reached. But the process adopted in reaching that figure does not commend itself to me as quite acceptable or opportune at this time. The huge figure is reached by additional taxation and increase of the rate of income-tax and supertax which may not be quite opportune at this time, since it is not made out to be imperatively necessary. The anticipated revenue is Rs. 285.40 lakhs and the anticipated expenditure is Rs. 271.73 lakhs leaving a surplus of Rs. 13.67 lakhs as against Rs. 2.68 lakhs for the current year and it is stated that this anticipated increase of revenue is partly owing to the increase of 6 to 7 lakhs on account of additional taxation under three or four heads. One is the additional tax in the increase of rates of the income-tax and super-tax ; another is the imposition of excess profit-tax and the third by securing contracts for sales of cardamom in the State itself and lastly by the reduction in the sale of interest on the Anchal savings bank deposits. With all these, there is only an anticipated income of 6 to 7 lakhs whereas there is a surplus of 13 lakhs anticipated. So, even without the imposition of these three taxes it is quite possible to make a surplus of about 6 lakhs which is more than twice the surplus of the current year.

Another point worth mentioning is that out of the expenditure of Rs. 10 lakhs set apart for war purposes, which is a contingency expenditure, a portion alone may or may not be spent and but for this expenditure, the anticipated surplus would be somewhere about 24 lakhs as anticipated by the Financial Secretary. In the event of the whole amount of this ten lakhs being spent, even then there is bound to be a much higher surplus than the current year's surplus. Therefore, my submission is that there is no justification for fresh taxes. Of course, one of the justifications made mention of is that the rates of taxes in British India are higher and that in raising the taxes here we are only bringing it on a line with the British Indian rates of taxes. It is true to some extent that there can be no hardship caused to the people as a whole because only the persons who can afford to pay are asked to pay these additional taxes. But my submission is that still it may discourage the progress of industries to some extent in the State. One of the reasons why the big companies which we now see in Travancore started their business in Travancore is that labour is cheap here and taxation is more favourable than it is in British India. But recently there has been labour troubles here also, thanks to labour leaders and other organisations. We have also begun to hear of labour strikes and other troubles too often and if we add to them the increase of taxation also, I believe, that may discourage those business concerns who have started business here and prompt them either to close down their business or not continue it with the same vigour as before. Already we

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have seen many firms closing down their doors on account of the lack of business due to war situation and other reasons. We find for instance, that most of the coir factories engaged in mats and matting industry, have closed down. So, if at this juncture a fresh taxation is imposed on such companies who may possibly be alone affected by the increase of taxation, it may be a source of discouragement.

The second source resorted to for increment of revenue is the excess profit duty. This also, I submit, may not bring in the anticipated income.

President : I am afraid you will not have time to dilate on that subject.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar : Thanks to the wise and timely measure of the Government, prices were controlled and much of the excess profit that would have been otherwise derived by the merchants in respect of their commodities, was curtailed. As Mr. Thuppan Namboothiripad has pointed out, by venturing upon purchasing a large quantity of rice, though at some sacrifice, Government have been able to control the price and keep them to the old level. But for this, the prices of the commodities would have gone abnormally high. (*President's Bell.*)

President: I am afraid you will have to stop.

Mr. S. Sundararajan: Sir, I am glad that the Budget has the general approbation of the House and I am thankful to the House for the approbation. The main point which has been made out in all the discussions is that the revenue forecast is excessive and the expenditure is also excessive. I may state at once that the estimate for the revenue has been very carefully considered in consultation with the heads of the departments and that they have arrived at a safe figure. It is also the intention of the Government to keep a watch on the revenue position of the State and take the necessary steps whenever there is a tendency of the collection slackening. In regard to the land revenue one member expressed the surprise how the revenue which stood at 34 lakhs in 1114 would rise to 42 lakhs in 1116.

I may assure the honourable members that land revenue collected in 1115 has already amounted to about 38 to 39 lakhs and in view of the additional revenue expected on account of the Minor Circuits being completed there is justification for safely putting it at 42½ lakhs.

As regards taxation measures, I find that the House generally approves of the taxation measures contemplated. And in fact Government are really very gratified to know that Mr. Park has observed that he is anxious to add on to the existing 2224 persons who are paying income-tax on salaries.

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[Mr. S. Sundararajan.]

Mr. Krishna Aiyar has raised the point why there should be any taxation at all when the normal revenue anticipated would yield a surplus. As already stated in my Budget speech a margin has been left over to meet any extraordinary conditions that may arise should the war be prolonged.

In respect of excise revenue, one member has complained that the reason that there has been a rapid decline in the consumption of tobacco has been just the reason for the decline in revenue for the past 2 or 3 years. The deterioration in collections is due to the unwillingness of the parties to import under the enhanced rate of duty imposed on Jaffna tobacco and Government have now offered a rebate of 65 rupees per ton under certain conditions.

There has been a general tendency in the course of the discussions to compare the budgetary position and the economic condition of the country. Of course the Government are fully alive to the economic situation of the country. All that is possible of being done within the budgetary year will be done ; but it will be very difficult and it is also not quite correct to correlate the economic progress with the budgetary conditions of a single year.

As regards the expenditure, the main point raised by all members was the question of the retrenchment. They have stated that the scale of pay and salaries here is very excessive. I would like to state that in relation to the total revenue of the country, the salaries do not compare very unfavourably with other countries. In Travancore, it appears that we spend 35·2 per cent. of our income on salaries ; in Hyderabad it comes to about 40·9 per cent. It is about 35·1 per cent. in Mysore and 41·6 per cent. in Madras. I am not saying at all that the members should not press for a lesser proportion, but as it is we cannot condemn that they are excessive.

As regards pensions the complaint is that the pension list shows a tendency to increase by leaps and bounds. The proportion to revenue is not however very high. It is about 5 6 per cent. in Travancore, 5·8 per cent. in Mysore, and 6·7 per cent in Madras. Various methods have been suggested by members for reducing the pension budget. All the suggestions will be given careful consideration by Government.

As regards travelling allowances, it is complained that they too increase by leaps and bounds. I may state that every effort is being made to cut down travelling allowances and Government are not sanctioning the full amount claimed by officers. In fact the main object of the Government is to see that travelling allowances are not made a source of profit but that they are just enough to cover the actual expenditure incurred by the officers.

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There were also complaints about the non-utilization of the entire budgetary provision under Education and Medical. Under Education, as has already been made out, the saving is due to the staff sanctioned not being employed in full. Savings in the Medical Budget were mostly due to the non-availability of certain medicines in India owing to war conditions.

Mr. Park pointed out that no provision is made for combating malaria. In fact on page 178 of the Preliminary Budget, a provision of Rs. 33,000 is made for epidemic diseases. This includes the provision for several malaria operations. This is almost a recurring item and therefore no special mention is made in the budget speech.

The point was also raised about the leakage of revenue, that is, as was explained about the excess expenditure under various commercial services such as Transport. One question was asked, why there should be a loss during the current year when war started only in September. The war, as the members are aware, commenced in September, that is almost at the beginning of the year. And it is not the price of petrol alone that was responsible for the increase in the costs of operation. Motor accessories and other materials had to be obtained at a much greater cost and that has been responsible for increasing the working expenditure of the Transport Department.

The point was raised that the contribution of 5 lakhs of rupees for the Distress Relief Fund may not be adequate. The intention of the Government was to give relief to the unemployed factory labourers till employment is found for them.

As regards investment a suggestion was made that Government might as well enter the market value of the securities in the Budget. As the Government account now stands there is no provision for revaluing securities every year or at the end of a year. But in the ways and means budget and for our resource purposes we do make such valuation and the valuation will be available to anybody who is interested in it.

Lastly, I come to the question of the statement of assets and liabilities. One member very carefully scrutinised it and pointed out that there was a wide disparity in figures. He was at a loss to understand how the grand total of assets which was about 5 lakhs at the end of last year will be only 3 lakhs at the end of 1116. But I may say that the disparity is due to the exclusion of capital assets from the statement.

Various comments have been made on the nature of the budget, whether it is a surplus one or a deficit one. One member went so far as to say that I have shown a deficit budget as a surplus one.

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[Mr. S. Sundararajan.]

As I have made it clear in my speech, it is not necessary that surplus budget always envisage an ideal condition. The actual figures of the revenue and expenditure anticipated in the course of the year have alone been taken and the balancing has only followed the inexorable law of arithmetic. Government are confident that their revenue anticipations will be fulfilled and they will also do their best to see that steps are taken to realise their anticipations.

Mr. M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: Sir, certain additional sources of revenue have been suggested. I shall begin with Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai's suggestion.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail: We have only five minutes more and I want my question to be answered.

Mr. M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: I shall answer the question in due course.

The three sources of revenue suggested are, firstly, an increase in the taxation of rubber lands, secondly the nationalisation of the salt industry and thirdly re-settlement. Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai wants the taxes on rubber lands to be increased from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per acre. Under Section 31 of the Settlement Proclamation, the settlement was declared permanent for a term of 30 years. It was ordered that the assessment fixed would not in any way be enhanced till the next settlement. All assessments of lands subsequent to the general settlement or in continuation of the general settlement are done on the basis of the rules then in force and when pattas are issued to the party, Government are estopped from revising (enhancing) the assessment fixed till the next general settlement. The condition (7) incorporated in the patta runs as follows: "The assessment on the land will be liable to alteration at the general revision of the Land Revenue Settlement." Hence it will not be possible to raise the tax on lands cultivated with rubber.

In regard to the nationalisation of salt industry, the question was discussed more than once in this House and the Government have said that it is not a practical proposition as the lands are leased for a term of 50 years and as the major portions of the leases are yet to run. Government will also have to spend at least some 50 lakhs of rupees by way of compensation.

Thirdly, regarding re-settlement, this is a matter which will cost at least one crore and fifty lakhs of rupees and the present time is the least opportune for the purpose.

Mr. Ismail seems to be impatient and I shall answer him next. Mr. Ismail was speaking about the representation of Muslims in the army. I may say at once, that there is no rule or order prohibiting

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the entertainment of Muslims in the army. In fact there are four Muslim officers in the infantry units, two of whom are commissioned officers and 2 are non-commissioned officers.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail : Is there any member in the general force ?

Mr. M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar : I am coming to that. One Muslim retired officer was till recently employed as Chief Inspector in the Army Training School. Preference was given to other communities mainly for the reason that Muslims had representation in the army. Out of 66 members in the Body Guard 31 are Muslims, out of 45 in the artillery 23 are Muslims.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail : May I know the strength of the infantry ?

Mr. M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar : One thousand eight hundred and sixty seven.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail : May I know whether Government will give the necessary instructions to the army authorities ?

Mr. M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar : The matter will be considered.

As regards the Kandukrishy lands referred to by Mr. Kuruvilla, the complaint is against the present rule regarding the levy of prohibitory assessment on Kandukrishy wet lands converted into garden lands. It has been stated that the prohibitory assessment works hardship on Kandukrishi tenants. The enfranchisement of Kandukrishi lands has also been prayed for. These matters are engaging the serious attention of the Government and orders have already been issued stopping coercive proceedings against those who pay double the assessment due for one year, over and above the usual lease amounts. It is hoped that Government will be in a position to pass final orders soon.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : May I know what has been done in regard to the district officer I mentioned who showed some particular love for iron ?

Mr. M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar : This matter is also engaging the attention of Government.

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : I wish to say a few words regarding the charge made that the Education Department in 1114 showed some savings. I may say that such savings are incidental to a big establishment like the Education Department. It is a vacation department and officers are likely to take leave on half pay. This will make a small saving when officers go on leave. As for the year 1114, it was an exceptional year in many respects

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[Mr. A. Gopala Menon.]

when Government were forced to withhold grants to many schools owing to shortage of attendance in classes. That also contributed o the saving to a certain extent without our doing anything.

A plea was made that such savings should be utilised in giving additional grants to schools. It has been actually done in 1115. The balance available was scraped together for the purpose of giving aid to primary schools which had become complete during the school year 1111-1112. In granting this aid we have advanced a further step from last year. It will also be observed from the budget that some additional provision has been made for next year so that the same concessions may be continued in the next year. Thus we are doing what we can to relieve the distress of the aided schools and are working on a regular plan by which grants to more and more schools are given whenever possible.

As for increasing the rate of the grant, the question is a big one. Government are not unsympathetic; but at the same time, they are faced with a huge financial proposition. The point will be worth consideration and should be considered only after all the primary schools which have now been denied the privilege of earning grant get at least the aid that is given to other schools. That will take at least two or three years more, by which time, let us hope, Sir, that the financial position will improve much more.

The House adjourned at 5·2 P. M. to meet again at 11 A. M. on Saturday, the 10th August 1940.

A. GUNAMONY,
Secretary to the Sri Chitra State Council.

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